Rained off in the Peak?

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AWCC Stockport
AWCC Stoke
# Peak Limestone

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Cheedale in the early season - don’t forget the wellies. Photo: Chris Craggs
The Peak District National Park forms a much needed green lung for the many millions of city dwellers who live just over the horizon in almost every direction. The Park - the first in the UK (1951) lies within 50 miles of half the population of England. Despite its small size, it exhibits a rare variety of landscapes in such a small compass. From the desolate northern moors and their rugged gritstone edges, through the central farmland with its drystone walls, to the tranquil southern dales with their bubbling trout streams and white limestone towers; the area has a bit of almost everything and as such it attracts many visitors.

Of course climbers are just one such group and they are doubly blessed with two rock types to go at within the Peak Park, each with its own characteristics, unique settings and set of enthusiasts. *The Grit* remains the rock of choice for many, limestone being seen as the poor relative, and it appears likely that a superb set of grit area guidebooks over recent years is at least part of the reason for this. It is time to redress the balance a bit.

In this book we have the best of the limestone on offer in the Peak District. For trad climbing there are venues like the big three of High Tor, Beeston Tor and Chee Tor which rank with any limestone crag in the country for quality. Then there is the old forcing ground of Stoney - a place which can be warm and sunny when the near-by gritstone edges are cold and weather-beaten. Alternatively you could opt for some pleasant easier routes at Aldery Cliff, Wildcat, Ravensdale or Harborough - all great venues with a variety of climbing to suit most tastes, and this is not to mention a dozen other great crags.

Despite the pedigree of the limestone trad climbing, the most popular crags are the quarries that pockmark the Peak District landscape. These have been extensively explored and developed with most decent bits of rock now being bolted for sport climbing. They may not always be the most picturesque locations but crags like Horseshoe, Masson Lees and Harpur Hill have many quality routes towards the middle and lower end of the grade spectrum and are extremely popular and busy locations.

Those after harder sport routes on natural rock are spoilt for choice: the Mecca of Raven Tor, a couple of Cornices, loads of fine cliffs in Chee Dale, the fierce fingery walls of Water-cum-Jolly, plus a number of smaller crags dotted around to go at. This includes some world famous cutting edge routes offering great climbing from the mid grades right up to 9a.

Of the 2381 climbs described in this book, 1411 are sport routes (59%) and 970 are trad routes including classics of both genres. Sport climbing has become the norm on limestone for many nowadays, and at the same time trad limestone climbing has fallen out of fashion, though aficionados have continued to enjoy these fine climbs. New guidebooks always cause a spike in activity and we hope this one will provide a stimulus for anyone not familiar with climbing on Peak Limestone to get out there and give it a go, be it trad or sport.

*Alan James, Chris Craggs, March 2012*
John Crook on the wildly exposed upper wall of Armageddon (E2 5c) - page 62 - on Windy Buttress at Stoney. Photo: Dan Lane
Dan’s magnificent photo captures Stoney very well - not the most perfect of rock with some vegetation and flaky holds, but bags of atmosphere!
The Book
This is the third ROCKFAX guidebook to Peak Limestone and it is 20 years since Alan James' first ever guidebook was produced back in 1992. Things have moved on considerably from the hand-drawn topos of this 1992 offering; nowadays lavish full-colour photo-topos have been used wherever possible and these are closely linked to detailed descriptions. Where the cliffs are heavily shrouded by trees we have used full-colour drawn topos. In a few cases we have actually used an amalgamation of both photo and topo (see Wild Cat - page 366). All crags are also feature a detailed approach maps with GPS parking locations.

Coverage
We have given extensive coverage of all the major limestone crags in the Peak District, both sport and trad. In general, where a buttress or crag is included, we have included all the routes on that buttress although very minor eliminates may be excluded. This means that the book is a selected crag guidebook rather than a selected route guidebook. There are a number of large well-developed quarries - Intake, Halldale, Cawdor, Slayley Brook - that have been left out owing to legal restrictions placed on us by the land owners. Climbing is banned in these quarries anyway.

History
The history of climbing on Peak Limestone stretches back over 100 years, every great climber of his generation has tested his mettle on these fingery classics. Most of the big lines were climbed, often with some aid, in the 1950 and 60s. As gear and fitness improved, many of these were free climbing and the intervening gaps were plugged by ever harder routes. Bolt protection arrived in the 1980s although initial acceptance was slow their use spread onto unclimbed sections of rock proved inexorable. Finally the development of sport climbing, introducing routes of the highest grade and allowed the development of many old quarries that had previously been dismissed as worthless. Beyond the first ascent details included with every route (where known), no other historical overviews are included here.
Laura Hudson on making the rock-over move on *Body Machine* (7c+) - page 216 - at Raven Tor. Photo: Adrian Berry.

Up until 2008 the start of this route, *The Prow, Indecent Exposure* and many derivatives used an old tree to by-pass the dirty initial wall. This tree was cut down in July 2008 for no apparent reason and no-one has ever owned up to it. Since then the lower wall has been climbed by various alternative starts but the climbing is hard and the rock is filthy for much of the time - significantly longer than the rest of the crag. This senseless action has sadly tainted some of the best sport routes on Peak Limestone which, although still good, are not quite as good as they used to be.
Key Previous Guides
The limestone areas in the Peak have been documented since 1913 when John Laycock included some climbs at Harborough and Brassington in his Gritstone Climbs book. Since then the documentation has shifted from area guidebooks with limestone and gritstone, to dedicated limestone guidebooks.
We are very grateful to all those who have worked on previous guidebooks. The key books are listed below.

Northern Limestone - Alan James, Mark Glaister and Chris Craggs (ROCKFAX 2004)
From Horseshoe to Harpur Hill - Gary Gibson (BMC 2004)
Peak Limestone Wye Valley - Geoff Milburn (BMC 1999)
Peak Limestone - Alan James (ROCKFAX 1992)
Peak Limestone (3 Volumes) - Geoff Milburn (BMC 1987)
Northern Limestone - Dave Gregory (BMC 1980)
The Southern Limestone Area - Paul Nunn (BMC 1970)
The Northern Limestone Area - Paul Nunn (BMC 1969)
Rock Climbs on the Mountain Limestone of Derbyshire - Graham West (BMC 1962)

Web Site  www.rockfax.com
The Rockfax website is a mine of useful information about climbing all over Europe. It contains the Rockfax Route Database plus many PDF MiniGUIDES and updates both complementing the printed books produced by Rockfax and also covering new areas.

Rockfax Route Database - This database contains a listing of every route in the book (and most other Rockfax books as well). The Peak Limestone section has been available for over a decade and has logged a huge number of comments and votes on the routes. All this information has been vital in putting together this book, getting the grades and stars right and keeping a check on developments. Thanks to all those who have contributed.

The current version of the database has been updated to reflect the routes as described in this edition of the book so you can start using it again to keep everyone informed about any changes or your own opinions on grades, stars and the routes in general.

Don’t forget that it is possible to use the database to construct a personal and printable tick-list of routes by using the advanced search function to select a location, grade band and star range of routes and return a list with tick boxes, and page references in this guide.

Guidebook Footnote
The inclusion of a climbing area in this guidebook does not mean that you have a right of access or the right to climb upon it. The descriptions of routes within this guide are recorded for historical reasons only and no reliance should be placed on the accuracy of the description. The grades set in this guide are a fair assessment of the difficulty of the climbs. Climbers who attempt a route of a particular standard should use their own judgment as to whether they are proficient enough to tackle that route. This book is not a substitute for experience and proper judgment. The authors, publisher and distributors of this book do not recognise any liability for injury or damage caused to, or by, climbers, third parties, or property arising from such persons seeking reliance on this guidebook as an assurance for their own safety.
When this crag finally dries out in early summer some courageous soul sets off up each route to begin the process of dusting it back down. It usually takes a few ascents before the routes clean up properly but they can stay that way until December if we are lucky.
Sabby Bacher crossing the powerful bulges of *Powerplant* (8a) - page 204 - on the Chee Dale Cornice. Photo: Mark Glaister
When we realised Northern Limestone was due to sell out (it actually sold better then we ever expected) and there was no queue to take on the rewrite, I thought I could squeeze in just one more project. Some guidebooks plead to be born and rush forth with barely a breaking of sweat from the grateful authors. Others have to be forced into existence by brute force and sheer bloody-mindedness. The limestone guides always seem to slot into the latter category. The previous version; Northern Limestone, had the longest gestation of any Rockfax ever and although this volume has only taken a couple of years it has proved no exception to the rule. The reasons are various and obvious: new venues get developed, old ones become overgrown, holds break, bans are established and of course the trees get bigger year on year making the photography ever more challenging. Despite the tribulations we hope the final product does justice to these fine climbs.

Without the help of many climbers the book would never have happened. Jon Clark got in touch at an early stage and his encyclopedic knowledge of the Peak's hard sport routes has been invaluable, the Raven Tor section is a prime example of his great feedback. Graham Hoey has proof read the whole book and offered advice from his vast experience of hard trad routes throughout the Peak area, as has Gary Gibson - Mr Peak Lime himself! Others who have offered their advice/experience include Marc Bellingall, Bob Bennett, Dan Smith, Dave Johnson and Neil Foster. Apologies for anyone any I have missed. Kris Clemmow has provided excellent feedback as well as doing sterling work on access and rebolting. Jon Fullwood, Paul Bennett have read most of the text and offered plenty of feedback. Daimon Beail and Emma Harrington have been great proof readers.

As ever we have had the pleasure of browsing through and choosing from the galleries of many excellent photographers, their work adds immeasurable value to the book. Thanks to Adrian Berry, Ben Lea, Christian Fox, Craig Bailey, Dan Lane, David Bond, David Simmonite, Denise Hammer, Esther Bott, Jon Fullwood, Keith Sharples, Mark Glaister, Mike Hutton, Neil Foster, Nick Smith, Pete Clark, Ryan Edwards, Stu Littlefair; and also to those who offered photos; Mark Rankine, James Smith, James Reece, Thomas Bond, Tim Lounds and Tony Moody.

Graham and Dan Parkes were very helpful in getting many of the final (and more esoteric) action shots we needed (see pages 132 and 228). Stephen Horne has managed to make the complex production of these books a lot less complex and fraught. His support has been second to none - cheers for that.

As ever Sherri Davy has been standing right behind me, despite dragging her back from the sunny delights of winter in Kalymnos to tramp the muddy Derbyshire Dales - not once but twice! Alan James has been the guiding light behind this and every other Rockfax, accepting nothing less than perfection; with a mixture of cajoling and cudgelling I think we got there in the end.

Chris Craggs, March 2012

The bread and butter of this guidebook is the crags and the routes that it covers. Without the routes we have nothing to climb, and even with the routes we still need people to negotiate on our behalf to ensure continued access. We are very grateful to those who put in effort developing; people like Gary Gibson, Kris Clemmow, Jon Fullwood, Jon Clark, Graham Hoey and many more over the years. For access the whole Peak Area committee need a mention but especially Henry Folkard who deserves endless praise from every climber who ever touches rock in the Peak District.

It seems almost incredible that it was 20 years ago that I wrote my first acknowledgements in a Peak Limestone Rockfax. That particular effort - my first guidebook - was a life-changing event for me and took me in a direction I hadn't contemplated up to the point that Mick Ryan and Greg Rimmer gave me the opportunity. I am very grateful to both of them for having faith in me at that time.

Finally thanks to my family - 20 years ago there were just the two of us, now we have a house full and the place is so much more lively for it.

Alan James, March 2012
Bridget Collier enjoying her ascent of Eye, Eye (6b+) - page 332 - at Masson Lees Quarry. Photo: Mark Glaister.

Equipment Manufacturers

Black Diamond - Outside back cover
www.blackdiamondequipment.com

Beta Climbing Designs - Page 17
www.betaclimbingdesigns.com

Mammut - Inside front cover
www.mammut.ch

Arc’teryx - Inside back cover
www.arcteryx.com

Entre-prise - Page 19
www.entre-prises.com

Rab - Opposite
www.rab.uk.com

Climbing Walls

Awesome Walls - Page 2
St. Alban’s Church, Liverpool. Tel: 01512 982422
The Engine House, Stockport. Tel: 0161 494 9949
Sefton Road, Stoke-on-Trent. Tel: 01782 341919
www.awesomewalls.co.uk

The Leeds Wall - Page 27
Gelder Road, Leeds. Tel: 0113 234 1554
www.theleedswall.co.uk

Manchester Wall - Page 23
St Benedict’s Church, Manchester.
Tel: 0161 230 7006
www.manchesterclimbingcentre.com

Shops

Rock On - Page 21
Mile End, London. Tel: 0208 981 5066
Craggy Island, Guildford. Tel: 01483 565635
Redpoint, Birmingham. Tel: 01213 598709
www.rockonclimbing.co.uk

V12 - Back cover flap
The Old Baptist Chapel, Llanberis.
Tel: 01286 871534
www.v12outdoor.com

Guiding

James Thacker - Page 29
Tel: 07887 992745
www.jamesthacker-mountaineering.co.uk

Alternative Adventures - Page 29
Tel: 028708 31258
www.adventurealternative.com
Mark Stevenson leading *Alcasan* (E2 5c) - page 64 - at Stoney Middleton belayed by Rich Mayfield. Mark and Rich were on Day 16 of the Hard Rock Challenge where the two of them climbed all the routes in the book Hard Rock in a five week period. That’s 6500m of climbing, 180 miles of walk ins, 4 ferry crossings, over 3,000 miles of driving and all at the mercy of the British weather which was pretty bad in July 2007. See page 1 for one of the 4 routes they did the previous day.

Photo: Dave Simmonite
Mobile Phones
Many of the crags described in this section of the book have reasonable mobile phone coverage across the major networks. The exceptions are isolated and enclosed places like the depths of Chee Dale and Dovedale where coverage can be intermittent or not available at all. In an emergency, the only option is to climb to higher ground or find a phone box. It may be worth checking the situation before an emergency arises.

Tourist Information Offices
If you are short of ideas of what to do on a wet day or need some accommodation, take a look at the Tourist Information Offices. They contain much more useful information than it is possible to include in these pages.

- **Sheffield** - 14 Norfolk Row. Tel: 0114 221 1900
- **Buxton** - The Crescent. Tel: 01298 25106
- **Bakewell** - Old Market Hall, Bridge Street. Tel: 01629 816558
- **Leek** - Market Place, Leek. Tel: 01538 483741
- **Chesterfield** - Rykneld Square. Tel: 01246 345777/8
- **Ashbourne** - 13 Market Place. Tel: 01335 343666
- **Matlock** - Crown Square. Tel: 01629 583388

More information and other travel tips are at - [www.visitpeakdistrict.com](http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com)

When to Go
Peak Limestone can offer something on most days of the year. There are several winter sun-traps like Beeston Tor and Horseshoe Quarry, which could well be pleasant and climbable in mid-winter. Conversely these same crags can be unbearably hot in the warmer months.

For harder routes many of the main crags of interest suffer from seepage and only come into condition from March and April onwards or later if we have a wet spring. If travelling from afar, take note of the crag seepage symbols to avoid disappointment. Once the summer arrives, the leafy dales offer plenty of shade and there is almost always something to go at even during a heat wave.

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Getting Around
The easiest way to access most of the crags in this book is by car and the approach descriptions are written assuming you have access to one. Certain crags are accessible using public transport and train stations are marked on the maps. Bus coverage for the Peak District is reasonable. The best web site for finding train information is [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com). The best web site for finding bus information is [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)
Beta Stick

0114 2558882
www.betaclimbingdesigns.com
Accommodation
There are many campsites scattered throughout the area, from small and basic to plush. Over a hundred sites are listed (with map and phone numbers) at www.stilwell.co.uk

Other useful websites for all different types of accommodation are:
www.peakdistrictonline.co.uk
www.ukclimbing.com/listings
www.ukcampsite.co.uk/sites
www.thebmc.co.uk

Youth Hostels - There are numerous Youth Hostels in the Peak District, check out www.yha.org.uk

Climbing Shops
More shops listed at -
www.ukclimbing.com/listings

Crag X - Unit 2  45 Mowbray Street,
Sheffield. Tel: 0114 2769741
Go Outdoors (Sheffield) - Hill Street,
Sheffield. Tel: 0114 2729733
Go Outdoors (Hathersage) - 6 Main Road,
Hathersage. Tel: 01433 659 870
Hitch 'n' Hike - Mytham Bridge, nr
Bamford, Hope Valley. Tel: 01433 651013
Jo Royles - 6 Market Place, Buxton.
Tel: 01298 25824
Nevisport - The Square, Main Road,
Hathersage. Tel: 01433 659666
Outside - Main Road, Hathersage.
Tel: 01433 651936
Outside - Baslow Road, Calver.
Tel: 01433 651936
V12 - Awesome walls, Stockport.
Tel: 0161 4946008
V12 - Awesome walls, Stoke.
Tel: 01782 333787
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Entre-Prises (UK) Ltd
T: 01282 444800  F: 01282 444801
info@ep-uk.com  www.ep-uk.com
Pubs

Pubs are an integral part of the climbing experience. The Peak District is blessed with many fine hostellries which make great locations for an après-climb pint where you can discuss the highs and lows of your day.

The list below are recommendations contributed by readers of the forums on [UKClimbing.com](https://www.ukclimbing.com).

Most are marked on the relevant crag map near the crag they are closest to.

**Stoney and Horseshoe**

**The Moon** ([page 42](#)), Stoney Middleton. An old favourite, with a sense of history.

**Miner’s Arms** ([page 69](#)), Eyam. The staff seem really friendly and obliging.

**Chee Dale and Miller’s Dale**

**The Bull’s Head**, Foolow. Good food and beer though quite small.

**The Barrel Inn**, Bretton. Good beer and magnificent views but gets busy.

**Three Stags Heads** ([page 211](#)), Wardlow Mires. Good atmosphere and beer but not to everyone’s taste. Only open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Doesn’t serve lager, mobile phones must be off!

**The Red Lion** ([page 267](#)), Earl Sterndale. Fine old country pub, lovely atmosphere, great beers, beautiful location. Handy for Aldery Cliff.

**The Queen’s Arms** ([page 272](#)), Taddington. Small friendly country pub with small shop.

**Dovedale and Manifold**

**The Bluebell Inn** ([page 280](#)), Tissington. Quite good for Dovedale and does reasonable meals.

**The Charles Cotton** ([page 282](#)), Hartington. Welcoming family pub and does good food.

**The Royal Oak Inn** ([page 284](#)), Wetton. Good food and beer, friendly staff, and £5 to camp behind the pub. Good for a weekend at Beeston Tor and Dovedale.

**Matlock Area**

**The County & Station** ([page 343](#)), Matlock. Good food, real ales. A good pint of Pedigree.

**The Princess Victoria** ([page 343](#)), Matlock. Good real ales and atmosphere, friendly staff and lots of nice bikes to look at on a weekend.

**The Boat Inn** ([page 372](#)), Cromford. Good for Willersley and near Scarthin Books.

**Wirksworth and Brassington**

**The Barley Mow** ([page 385](#)), Bonsall. Great food and beer plus regular music nights and the annual international hen race!

**The Rising Sun** ([page 385](#)), Middleton. Friendly and local feel. Good food

**Ye Olde Gate Inn** ([page 394](#)), Brassington. Also handy for Harborough.

**The Miner’s Arms** ([page 394](#)), Brassington. Also good for Harborough.
ROCK ON

Bulging with Climbing Gear!

Many shops claim to be climbing specialists. At Rock On we sell climbing/mountaineering equipment and books, and absolutely NOTHING ELSE. Now that’s specialist!

Mile End Climbing Wall
Haverfield Road,
Bow, London,
E3 5BE.
Tel: 0208 981 5066

Redpoint Climbing Centre
77 Cecil Street,
Birmingham,
B19 3ST.
Tel: 0121 359 8709

Craggy Island
9 Cobbett Park,
Slyfield Estate,
Guildford, GU1 1RU.
Tel: 01483 565635

www.rockonclimbing.co.uk

Sam King on Windows 95, F6a+, Blackwell Halt.

Photo by Jess Garland.
For those rare times of year when climbing on limestone isn't possible, the following climbing walls are well-worth considering. We haven't got enough room for approach directions so you will have to ring them up to find out how to get there. More information on the UKClimbing web site at www.ukclimbing.com/walls/

Awesome Walls  Page 2
The Engine House, Stockport.
Tel: 0161 494 9949
Large dedicated climbing centre.
www.awesomewalls.co.uk

Awesome Walls  Page 2
Sefton Road, Stoke-on-Trent.
Tel: 01782 341919
Bouldering wall with some leading lines.
www.awesomewalls.co.uk

The Climbing Works -
Centenary Works, Little London Road, Sheffield.
Tel: 0114 250 9990
Opened in 2006, a dedicated Bouldering wall.
www.climbingworks.com

The Edge, Sheffield
John Street, Sheffield. Tel: 0114 275 8899
Dedicated climbing centre built in 1994 with new
developments for each new season.
www.sheffield-climbing.co.uk

The Foundry, Sheffield
45 Mowbray Street, Sheffield. Tel: 0114 279 6331
Dedicated climbing centre built and added to by
various people since 1991.
www.foundryclimbing.com

Glossop Leisure Centre
High Street East, Glossop. Tel: 01457 842272
Moulded concrete bouldering wall built by
Bendcrete in 1990.

The Leeds Wall  Page 27
Gelderd Road, Leeds.
Tel: 0113 234 1554
A dedicated climbing centre.
www.theleedswall.co.uk

Manchester Wall  Opposite
St Benedict's Church, Bennett Street,
Manchester, M12 5ND
Tel: 0161 230 7006
A dedicated climbing centre
www.manchesterclimbingcentre.com

Nottingham Climbing Centre
The Old Pool, 212 Noel St, Nottingham.
Tel: 0115 9988233
Dedicated climbing centre built in 2011.
www.nottingham-climbing.co.uk

Rope Race
Goyt Mill, Upper Hibbert Lane, Marple. Tel: 0161 426 0226
Dedicated climbing centre. Built and added to by
various people since 1993.
www.roperace.co.uk

Time for the climbing wall maybe? Perhaps, but Horseshoe (aka Furness) was still busy with climbers when this shot was taken.
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During the 1980s Peak Limestone was at the forefront of hard sport climbing and all the talk was of crags like Raven Tor and Chee Dale. The magazines and guidebooks of the time naturally focussed on these top routes and some of the older crags got forgotten and ignored. The general impression was that Peak limestone was only for those operating in the higher grades, however there always have been other places like Aldery Cliff, Harborough, Brassington, Ravensdale and Wildcat where there are plenty of excellent trad routes in the VS and below category. In this photo Ash Mellor, belayed by Dan Fawley, is on the classic Clothesline (S) - page 271 - at Aldery Cliff. Photo: Dan Lane
Peak Limestone Climbing
Access
The limestone crags of the Peak District are managed by a variety of different land owners and conservation groups all of whom are keen to protect their own part of the natural landscape. This often brings them into conflict with climbers particularly over issues such as crag approach paths and nesting birds. The main issues in the Peak have been in Chee Dale and Water-cum-Jolly, and at some of the smaller crags like Ravensdale and Willersley. In most cases patient negotiating by members of the BMC Peak Area Committee have resulted in satisfactory solutions which enable climbing to continue, but sometimes with restrictions. All the specific details are given with the crag introductions. Please familiarise yourself with this information before climbing.

There are also some quarries described which have no formal access agreement. Climbing has taken place in these quarries over the years, but it should be noted that their inclusion in this book doesn’t imply that you have a right of access to climb on the crag.

Good Practice Points for Crag Development and Maintenance
The following Good Practice Points for new routing, crag re-development, bolting and route cleaning have been suggested as a way of avoiding conflict. Please read them carefully especially if you are new routing or considering (re)placing any bolts.
1) Find out if the area intended for development or maintenance is protected for geological or biological reasons, or because of breeding birds.
2) Some cliffs may be in SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest). Drilling and vegetation-stripping on SSSIs will require consent from the land owner or the land manager. If you are unsure, make a note of as many of the details as possible - for example grid reference, nearest village. For all areas contact the local BMC Area Representatives (see below).
3) Adhere strictly to any bans or restrictions on drilling. If in any doubt seek advice from the BMC Access Officer or local Area Representative (see below).
4) If you encounter access problems when at a crag, DO NOT be confrontational, leave the crag politely and inform the local BMC Area Representatives (see below).
5) Ensure safe practice when cleaning or drilling particularly with respect to members of the public who may be below. Try to be discrete and don’t drill at busy times and weekends.
6) Check on local ethical situation and consensus before bolting or replacing gear.
7) Avoid leaving krabs and threads on routes while working them.

British Mountaineering Council
British Mountaineering Council, 177-179 Burton Road, Manchester, M20 2BB.
Tel: 0870 010 4878 Fax: 0161 445 4500. Web: www.thebmc.co.uk Email: office@thebmc.co.uk
The BMC is the official body representing climbers in Britain. If you have problems regarding access to any of the areas in this book, then get in touch with the BMC Access Officer at the address above.
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4. Campaigns for your countryside rights
5. Crag and mountain information and guidance

ACT is the charitable trust of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC). ACT relies on your donations to turn climbing and walking conservation projects into reality.

You can donate online at www.thebmc.co.uk/act or call 0161 445 6111
Gear
For the traditional routes on Peak Limestone a good sized rack with plenty of small and medium wires is required. A few cams should be carried but be wary of trusting them the same way you might trust a placement on gritstone since it is not unknown for them to strip out of smooth-sided limestone cracks when loaded. Around a dozen quick-draws will suffice for most routes and double 50m ropes (or 60m for High Tor) are essential. A selection of threads of various lengths and thicknesses will be found useful on many climbs for tying off old pegs, threading pockets and saplings, and extending runners. For sport routes a single rope is the norm and, apart for a few exceptions, a 60m rope plus 12 quick-draws will be adequate. A rope sheet to keep the rope clean and a clip-stick to clip high 1st bolts may also be found useful.

Bolting
The bolting history of the Peak area is the longest in Britain with many of the ethical debates being fought out here in the 70s and 80s. This has resulted in a variety of different bolts being littered across the crags varying in quality from solid to downright dangerous. Most of the quarries now have relatively good bolts and many of the old bolts on the harder crags have been replaced in recent years. Be wary of anything that looks like the photo to the right and support the local bolt funds each time you go climbing.

Bolt Funds in the Peak Area
The Peak Bolt Fund was set up in 2008 by local climbers who wanted to re-equip existing routes mainly on the old natural crags like Raven Tor and the Chee Dale Cornice. A lot of work has been done on these crags but there is still much to do. The second bolt fund for the Peak limestone area is the Gary Gibson Bolt Fund. Gary has bolted thousands of routes across the country and is responsible for the majority of the bolting in the Peak quarries. Although Gary has established many new routes he also puts in a huge amount of effort in rebolting older climbs.

How can I help?
The main way everyone can help is by making a donation. The simple gesture of a £10 online donation each time you go clipping bolts in the Peak can go a long way to providing the necessary funding. If you want to get more involved then there is always a need for volunteers to help with the hard work. Bolting is a difficult and time-consuming activity. If you are an experienced climber, or have a background in rope access, you could be a real asset to the Peak Bolt Fund.

If you wish to place some bolts yourself, please contact either the BMC or the Peak Bolt Fund first since they will be able to advise on bolting technique. It is important that all new bolts placed should be proper stainless steel bolts at least 10mm in diameter. For more information have a look at the BMC Better Bolts Campaign - www.thebmc.co.uk

To donate to the Peak Bolt Fund or the Gary Gibson Bolt Fund go to www.ukboltfund.org
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M: 07887 992745
E: james@jamesthacker.co.uk
www.jamesthacker.co.uk
The routes in this book are given one of two different grades depending on whether they are a trad route or a sport route. The table to the right gives a rough comparison of the sport and trad grade with other international grading systems.

On trad routes the majority of the gear is carried by the lead climber and is hand-placed. A sport route is defined as one where all the major protection comes from gear fixed in the rock (bolts).

**British Trad Grade**

1) Adjectival grade (Diff, VDiff, Severe, Hard Severe (HS), Very Severe (VS), Hard Very Severe (HVS), E1, E2,..... to E10).

An overall picture of the route including how well protected it is, how sustained and a general indication of the level of difficulty of the whole route.

2) Technical grade (4a, 4b, 4c,..... to 7b).

The difficulty of the hardest single move, or short section.

**Sport Grade**

The sport grade is a measure of how hard it is going to be to get up a certain section of rock. It makes no attempt to tell you how hard the hardest move is, nor how scary a route is.

**Colour Coding**

The routes are all given a colour-coded dot corresponding to a grade band. The colour represents a level that a climber should be happy at, hence sport routes tend to be technically harder than the equivalent coloured trad routes because the climber doesn't need to worry about the protection.

1 - Up to Severe / Up to 4+

Mostly these should be good for beginners and those wanting an easy life.

2 - HS to HVS / 5 to 6a+

General ticking routes for those with more experience.

3 - E1 to E3 / 6b to 7a

Routes for the experienced and keen climber. A grade band which includes many of the Peak's great classics.

4 - E4 or 7a+ and above

The really hard stuff including some of the top sport routes in the country.
The route follows the approximate line of an aid route by Chris Craggs dubbed *Free That You Bastards*. This gauntlet was picked up by the young Sheffield climbers of the time who made several attempts to take up the challenge resulting in initially *Zeke the Freak* to the left of the aid line and finally *The Bastard* climbed by John Welford in 1995.
** General Incompetence  
** Verbal Abuse  
** Ninth Life  
** Eye of the Tiger  
** Sun Chariot  

---

** Steve's Route  
** Tequila Mockingbird  
** Eyes of Fire  
** Mad Max  
** In Bulk  
** Reproduction  
** Roadrunner  
** The Flight of Icarus  
** Laughing  
** The Great Tribulation  

---

** Fantasy  
** Jungle Land  
** The Dream Mile  
** Stuffed Badger  
** Duel in the Sun  
** Castellan  
** The Golden Mile  
** Autobahn  
** Menopause  
** Behemoth  
** Cream Team Special  
** The Myrmidon  
** Wall of Straws  
** Supersonic  
** Summer Wine  
** V2  
** Spizz Energy  
** Tales of Yankee Power  
** Ceramic Extension  
** The Girdle Traverse  
** White Riot/Whatta  
** Terra Incognita  
** White Bait  
** Tales of the Riverbank  
** A Miller's Tale  
** Circe  
** Mandrake  
** Traffic Jam  
** Snap Dragon  
** Kink  
** The Temptress  
** Jezebel  
** Midnight Summer Dream  
** A Game of Chess  
** Amber Gambler  
** The Gladiator  
** The Alien  
** Apocalypse  
** Mortlock's Arete  
** A6  
** Bitterfingers  
** Millionaire Touch  
** Colonel Bogey  
** Ceramic  
** Oliver  
** Decadence  
** Deception  
** Delta-G  
** Cabbage Crack  
** Yellow Brick Road  
** Our Father  
** Wee Doris  
** Multiplex  
** Nostalgia  
** Budgie  
** Flaky Wall  
** Pickpocket  
** Une Crime Passionel  
** A Touch of Class  
** No Entry  
** Police and Thieves  
** Caesar  
** Bubbles Wall  

---

Peak Limestone Climbing  
Trad Graded List and Top 50
Since 2003 the routes on Peak Limestone have been open for voting on stars and grades on the ROCKFAX website and these graded lists have been based on the many votes we have received. The list on this page covers the sport routes. Some additional routes have been added if the online database consensus wasn’t sufficient. If you disagree with the list then please let us know by visiting the website and placing your votes - www.rockfax.com

Neil Foster pulling through the steep upper moves of *Circe* (E5 6b) - page 60 - at Stoney Middleton. Photo: Keith Sharples
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Rachael Crewe and Chris James on pitch 2 of *Froth* (VS 4c) - page 58 - at Stoney Middleton. Photo: Keith Sharples

Rachael won the ‘Be In My Calendar’ competition run by Keith on UKClimbing.com. Each year he invites the lucky winner to come on a photo-shoot and feature in the Calendar on a certain month sponsored by UKClimbing.com.
## Destination Planner

### Approaches and Shelter
- **Sun Sheltered**
- **Dry in Rain**
- **Multi-pitch**
- **Restricted**

### Route Summary

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<th>Place</th>
<th>Sport Routes</th>
<th>Trad Routes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Stoney</td>
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<td>Horseshoe</td>
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<td>Smalldale</td>
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<td>Harpur Hill</td>
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<td>Lovers' Leap</td>
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<td>Beerhouse Buttress</td>
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<td>Staden Quarry</td>
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<td>Chee Dale Upper</td>
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<td>Chee Dale Lower</td>
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<td>Raven Tor</td>
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<td>Water-cum-Jolly</td>
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<td>Ravensdale</td>
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<td>Aldery Cliff</td>
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<td>Taddington</td>
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<td>Rheinstor</td>
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<td>Rolystone Dale</td>
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<td>Manifold Valley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beeston Tor</td>
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<td>Dovedale</td>
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<td>Turkey Dip Rocks</td>
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<td>Masson Lees</td>
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<td>Pic Tor</td>
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<td>High Tor</td>
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<td>Long Tor Quarry</td>
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<td>Wildcat</td>
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<td>Willersley</td>
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<td>Colehill Quarry</td>
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<td>Harborough Rocks</td>
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<td>Brassington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hipley Hill</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes
- More color density means more routes and more quality.
**Southeast**

**North**

**Birds Restrictions Page**

**Destination Planner Routes up to 4+ 5 to 6a+ 6b to 7a 7a+ and up Mod to S HS to HVS E1 to E3 E4 and up**

Approach

Sun

Sheltered

Dry in Rain

Multi-pitch

Restrictions

Summary

Page

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach</th>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
<th>Dry in Rain</th>
<th>Multi-pitch</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 - 15 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grand old venue with superb trad climbs in a busy setting. Lots of historical classics with some polish but a good year-round venue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 8 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Probably the most popular crag in the book with loads of well-bolted sport routes in the mid-grades. A good sun-trap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>North-facing walls with a good set of sport routes. The best venue in the 7a range.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 15 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The most extensive of the quarries with lots of sport routes on some good buttresses. Some poor sectors and it can be cold.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadside</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A very small ravine with a small set of routes. For the enthusiast who has climbed everywhere else, or a good place when very hot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A small wall with some intense technical climbs. Access isn’t easy but the crag faces south and is well bolted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 6 min</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Two north-facing areas; a fine trad quarry and a steep natural sport buttress. Access problems in the quarry. A good venue for hot days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 30 min</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>A very extensive area with sport and trad routes on natural buttresses. Sun and shade as required. Not much in the lower grades.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 20 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The continuation of the dale has two contrasting crags. Sunny and mid-grade trad, steep and shady hard sport. Both brilliant venues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadside</td>
<td>Roadside</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A powerhouse crag with a set of short and hard sport routes. Easy access and dry in the rain but nothing easy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadside</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One of the country’s most important hard crags with world famous routes in the upper grades. A huge sun-trap but seepage a problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 25 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A mixture of mid-grade trad buttresses and hard sport crags on opposite banks of the river. Well sheltered with sun or shade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Multi-pitch trad routes on a towering crag with some great routes. Few harder routes and some polish on the classics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadside</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>An east-facing old quarry with a good set of slabby easier routes. Very quick access and a pleasant secluded location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A small set of very technical sport routes in a shady setting above the A6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A small wall in an idyllic setting by a river. Short and bouldery routes on pockets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nicely situated at the head of a picturesque dale. A small set of mid-to-hard trad routes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 15 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A very popular (with walkers) cave with hard sport routes. Some seepage but cool when dry. Two smaller isolated crags as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 35 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A set of pinnacles and buttresses with mostly trad routes in sunny and shady settings. Some great classics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Short, steep and hard. Sport routes in an incredibly secluded location. Some seepage but stays dry in the rain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A quarry with a decent set of sport routes in the mid-grades. Some friable rock. Sunny and shady walls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This small natural buttress of trad routes has some good climbing on pockets. Very shady and seldom busy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grotty quarry used for fly-tipping with a decent wall of mid-to-hard sport routes. Shady but not a nice location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 15 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The best natural limestone crag in the Peak with stunning routes and rock. Superb lines and climbing. little seepage and plenty of sun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A secluded wall with hard sport routes in a very shady setting just seconds from the busy A6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A fine natural crag with multi-pitch trad routes in the lower-to-mid grades. West-facing with little seepage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>North-facing and with access problems but good routes on some decent cracks, corners and walls. A good hot weather crag.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A sunny quarry with technical sport routes. Access problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Some delightful easy routes on a nice hillside. Only short but perfect rock quality and very sunny.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Short trad routes and bouldering on a picturesque hill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Steep roadside crag with superb hard crack-line. North-facing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Some delightful easy routes on a nice hillside. Only short but perfect rock quality and very sunny.**

**Short trad routes and bouldering on a picturesque hill.**

**Steep roadside crag with superb hard crack-line. North-facing.**

**Destination Planner Routes up to 4+ 5 to 6a+ 6b to 7a 7a+ and up Mod to S HS to HVS E1 to E3 E4 and up**

Approach

Sun

Sheltered

Dry in Rain

Multi-pitch

Restrictions

Summary

Page

Faded symbol means that only some of the routes - are sheltered / are dry in the rain / are multi-pitch / are restricted.