

Wallowbarrow Gorge Boulders

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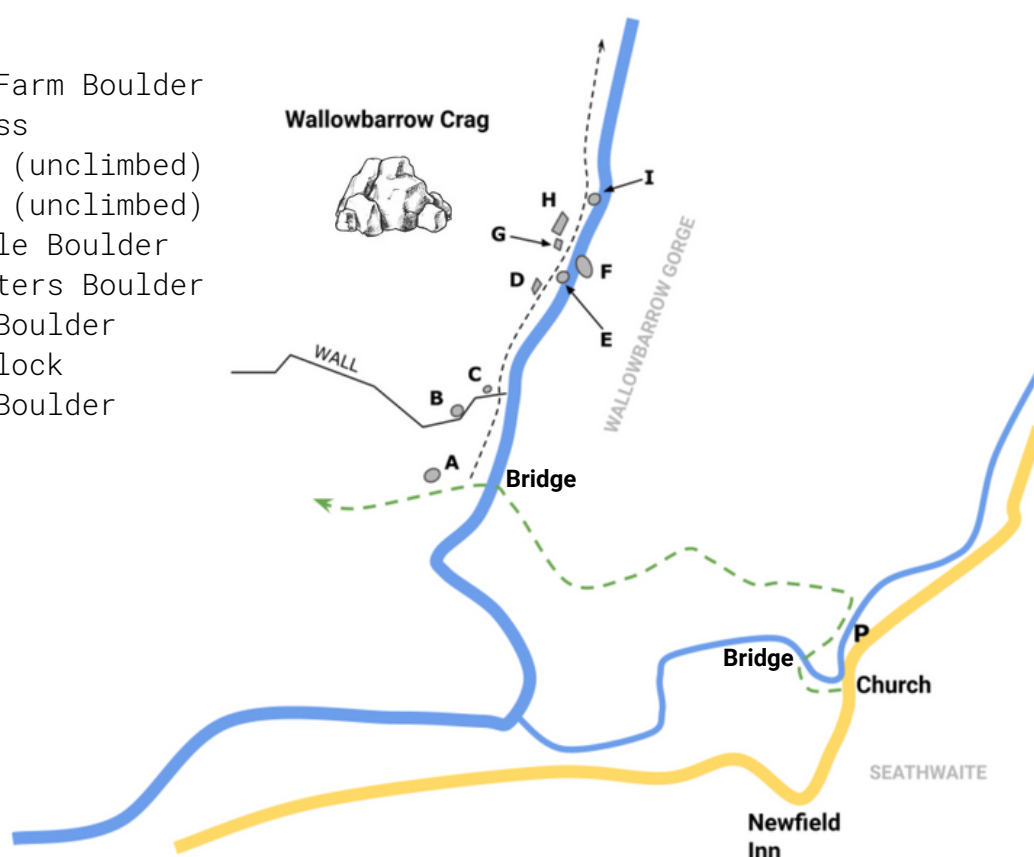
A fine collection of significantly sized rhyolite boulders, situated in a tranquil and unspoilt riverside location, near Wallowbarrow Crag in the heart of the Duddon Valley.

The approach is easy and the boulders are located in close proximity to one another, making a bouldering visit uncomplicated and friendly. Great summer swimming adjacent to the bouldering. The upper boulders provide the highest density of problems, however the Alien Ant Farm block is also well worth a look. Note: the Holt Boulder has a vegetated top, which does mean that the lines seep after rain, so for this block visit during a dry-spell.

Approach: From the parking opposite the Holy Trinity Church (just north of the Newfield Inn) take a footpath accessing a field, which then flanks the river heading southwest for 50m to a footbridge. Cross the bridge and follow the path, initially north along the edge of the river. After around a 100m the path swings left towards the gorge - which is a further 500m ahead. 10-15 mins.

Boulders

- A - Alien Ant Farm Boulder
- B - The Fortress
- C - Stile Prow (unclimbed)
- D - Ship Block (unclimbed)
- E - Emerald Isle Boulder
- F - River Monsters Boulder
- G - The Tower Boulder
- H - The Holt Block
- I - Riverside Boulder



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A - Alien Ant Farm Boulder

A cracking little boulder perched up on the wooded slope, 50m west of the small bridge crossing the gorge.

Adam Ant (6A+) SDS On the uphill side. Cool little line following the lip to the left arête and up. Starts down to the right. *

Alien Ant Farm (7C+/8A) SDS From two super low holds surmount the left edge of the block to the lip and follow it to the arête, switch sides, and finish up this. *

Ant Farm Direct (7C+/8A) SDS A direct version tops out from the lip, heading up the left side of the block to a flat ledge.



B - The Fortress

Up the slope, shortly after crossing the bridge, on the other side of a wall.

Tales from the Riverbank (7A) SDS The central 'prow' feature direct. *

C & D - Stile Prow & Ship Block

To the left of the track, a couple more blocks which may offer up some lines.

E - Emerald Isle Boulder

Just before reaching the main cluster of blocks you will notice a small cave down to your right by the river.

Emerald Isle (7A+) SDS Start as far back as possible and head straight out of the cave, bearing slightly left. *

Emerald Sweep (7A+) Start as per the previous line but on reaching the lip traverse it rightwards topping out at an obvious point. *



F - River Monsters Boulder

Like something straight out of Switzerland, this colousus is a thing to behold. Access it by rock hopping immediately down stream of the block itself. After big rains this block may become unclimbable due to submerged landings.

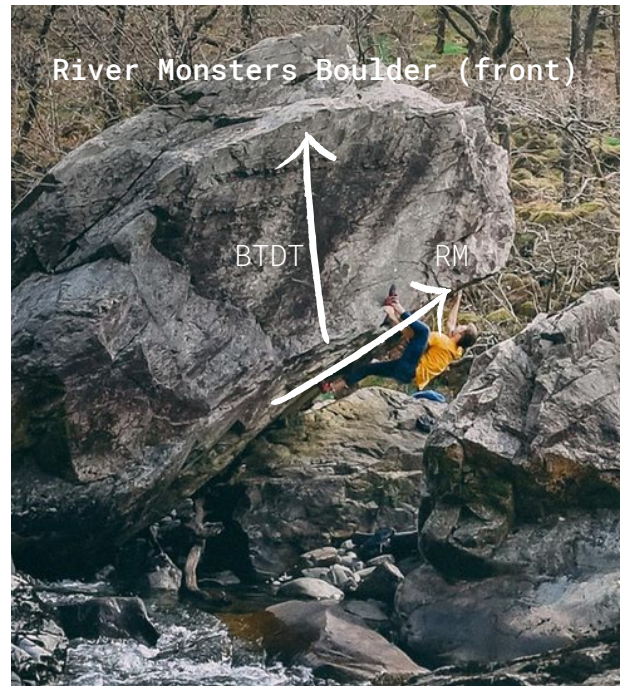
River Monsters (7A) The hanging arête/prow from a low start. ***

Been There Done That (7A+) Start as per RM but once at an obvious good hold, head straight up the thin wall above. *

The following two lines are on the back side of this block. The landings are jammed logs and a tree stump, so be aware, strong flood waters could dislodge these - removing the starting point.

Zom Beaver (7C) SDS From a very low start, head straight up the shallow groove/depression.

Eager Beaver (7A/+) SDS Up the right side of the wall, starting just right of the depression/scoop.



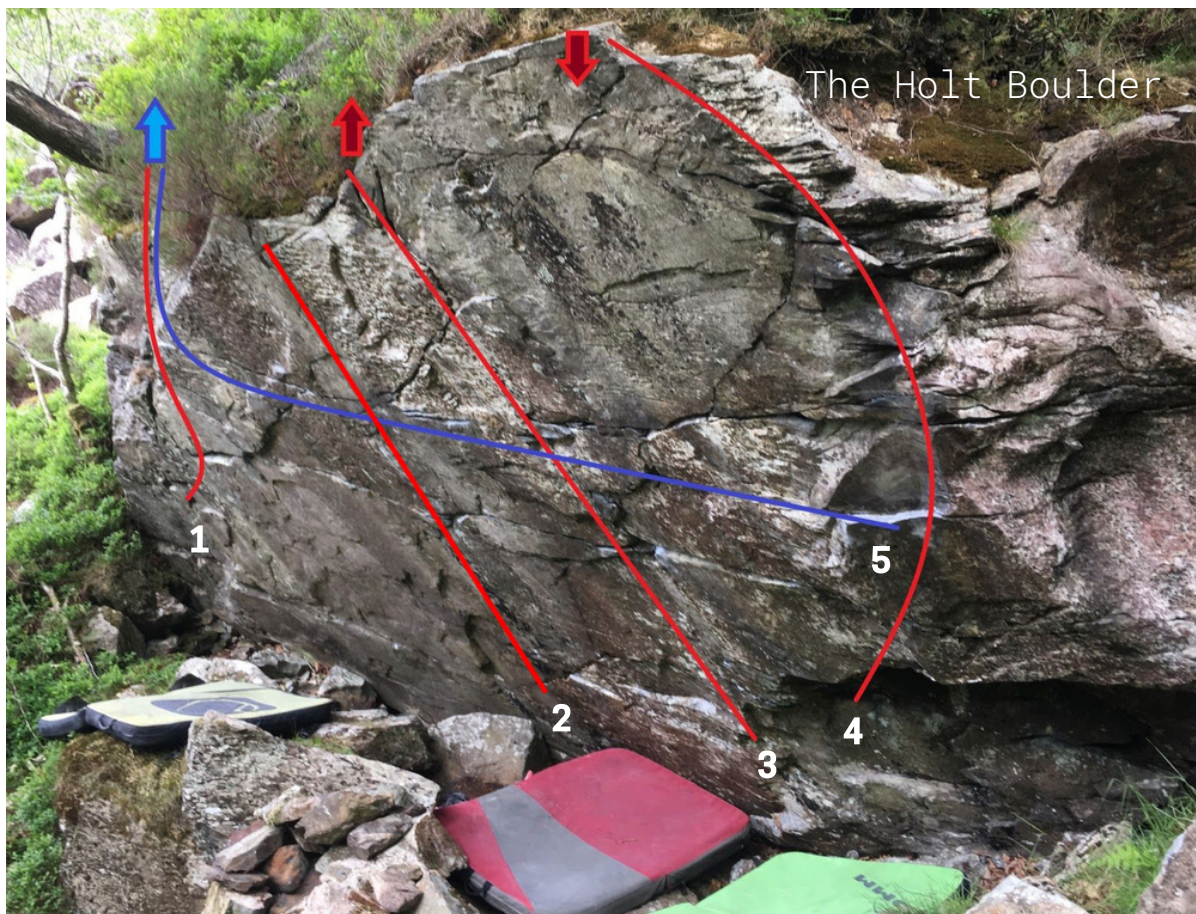
G - The Tower

A fine cube of rock perched above the path, just left of The Holt.

Left Arête (~6) SDS The left arête on the downhill face.

Right Arête (~6) SDS The right arête on the downhill face. A great problem and the best of the bunch. *

Back Arete (~6) SDS The arête nearest the Holt boulder, on the uphill end.



H - The Holt Boulder

1. Brown Trout (7A+) SDS From a large incut sidepull and edge, up and right through tilted edges and into the finish of 'Time & Tide'. *
2. Payara (7B+) SDS Start immediately right of a block, using a very low LH edge and higher RH slot. Tough, board-style crimp snatching then leads direct up the wall to a tilted jug at the top. *
3. Otters Wall (6C+) SDS Left of the cave, right hand on a sharp sidepull, left on an edge, pull on and up! **
4. Right Arete (6B+) SDS From the cave, slap to a large flatty then follow the left side of the arete throughout, can be topped out but more pleasant to drop off from the top. *
5. Time & Tide (7C) SDS Start on a flatty, then traverse the obvious shattered crack line right to left, to a final lunge to a sloping hold below the oak tree, top-out here. Graded for average sized fingers! **

I - Riverside Boulder

The Riverside Boulder provides a few additional problems in the lower grades. The height of the river greatly alters what is possible on this block.