

Lancs Access & Guidebook Update Oct 2021 – Les Ainsworth



Outstanding Access Issues (1)

Deeply Vale

Four protection bolts that appeared on *Zanadu* earlier this year have not yet been removed. As I reported at the previous NW Area meeting there really is no reason to retrobolt a route that was first climbed without bolts in 1981. **If you haven't the neck to lead a climb, top rope it, but don't desecrate it.**



Montcliffe

An additional sign for the approach path is still outstanding. When it is delivered I will arrange for it to be installed to fulfil commitments to the landowner.



Outstanding Access Issues (2)

Silverdale Sea Cliffs

The short sport climbing crags at Silverdale developed by Andy Hyslop have three separate owners. The current access situation is:

- The first section of crags is between the *Silverdale Hotel* and Cove Road is owned by the *National Trust* which is willing to permit climbing, but do not want any more bolting. After a trial period they will re-assess whether to permit further bolts, but there only appear to be a few further possibilities.
- The cliffs immediately left of Cove Road are owned by *Cove House Residential Home*. I visited these with the warden of Cove House who was sympathetic and promised to raise the matter with the trustees. No response yet, but I will contact her before the October meeting.
- The rocks at Far Arnside are about a kilometre farther north and these are slightly higher. The owners have been approached by a Silverdale local and then I sent them a letter. However, their response was that they were “*horrified*” about climbing there and they stated that they did not want any further discussions.

Outstanding Access Issues (3)

Hoghton

At the start of the Hoghton climbing season two climbers who did not know the combination for the locked gate took the gate of its hinges, which also broke the lock (or chain). This situation was discovered by security guards after which the Trustees immediately terminated the 2021 climbing season.

Now that the dust has settled I will get back to the trustees with a request for them to reinstate the previous arrangements. I will also make some proposals for managing the climbing differently to improve future access.



Thorn Crag

Because of inconsiderate parking in Tarnbrook (not necessarily by climbers) visitors must now park well before the village. If any climbers go to Thorn Crag, I would be most grateful if they could contact me with a brief description of the parking and the time taken to walk from the parking to the village.



Future Access Projects (1)

Troy Qy

At Troy there is now a clamping notice to discourage parking in the car parking area that we used to use. I am trying to arrange a meeting with the quarry owner to discuss this.



Cadshaw

We are considering stretching a cable across the stream between the Main Quarry and the outcrop. Watch this space.



Future Access Projects (2)

Warton Area

I have identified the following potential improvements on the various crags at Warton:

Warton Small Qy: The parking at Warton Small Qy is often full and so I will be making a proposal to Warton Parish Council about removing some trees to increase the parking space. This will probably need some volunteers.

Warton Main Qy: Currently climbing restrictions at Warton Main are proposed between the beginning of February and the end of June. I will be trying to revisiting these dates and will also be proposing a trial of some zoning arrangements, depending where the birds decide to nest. This may also require the BMC to assist with some new signage.

Warton Upper: I will asking for the removal of some small saplings at the right-hand end of the crag.



Clean ups

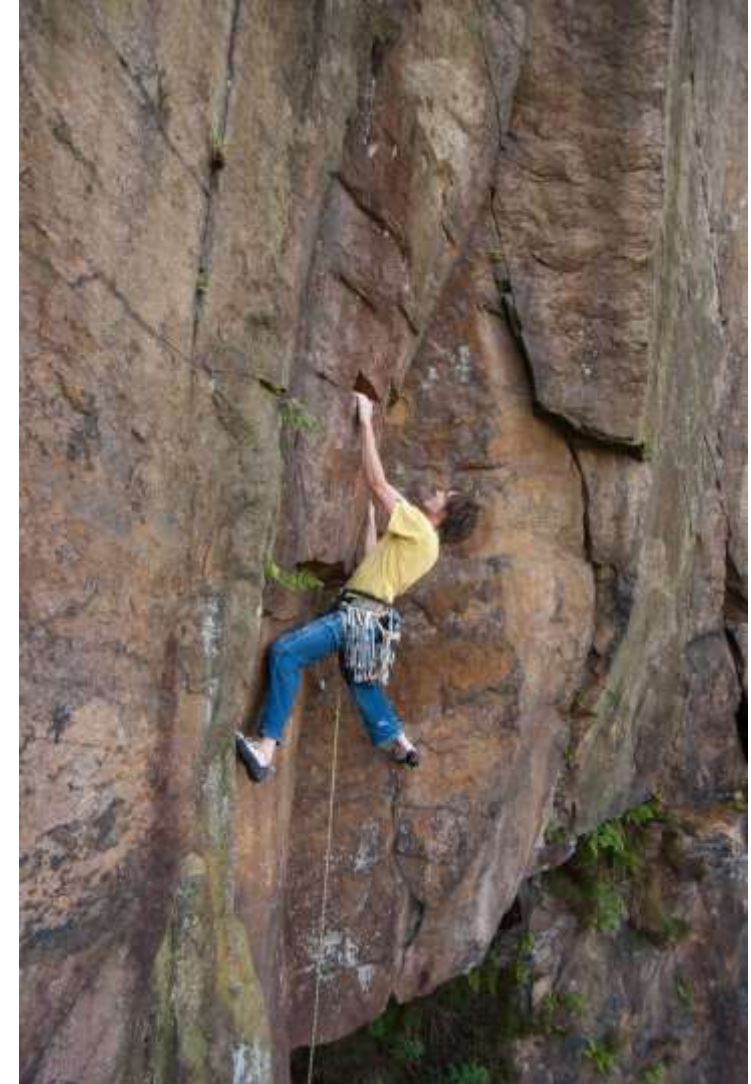
Wilton One

Since the previous NW Area Meeting there has been a clean up meeting at Wilton, which removed several small trees growing close to the rock. Some good work was done, but there is still more tree removal to be done, particularly at the Allotment.

The BMC has ordered some trees for planting above Grey and Red Walls at Wilton One. I have a few volunteers who have offered to come along on Wednesday Nov 3rd to help with the planting, but if anyone else is willing to help, please contact me. I will then contact the volunteers with the meeting time, which I expect to be about 10:30am. Just bring yourselves, gloves and a spade.

Egerton

There is a clean up session on Saturday Nov 6th, meeting at Grooved Walls at about 10:30. The aim is to ask each volunteer to clean just one route and after that for us to do a bit of climbing, including checking some selected routes. All the cleaning will be on abseils, and loppers or secateurs will be particularly useful. Also bring gloves and something to pick out some of the cracks.



Recent Developments

Noggarth

I have not been able to stop Chronnie's excavations at Noggarth (*I think he may need therapy*). Anyway together with Gordon Mason and Andy Barnes they have opened up more rock to the right of Girls Slabs and to the left Central Slabs. This has resulted in a dozen or so more routes. Details are available as a pdf from

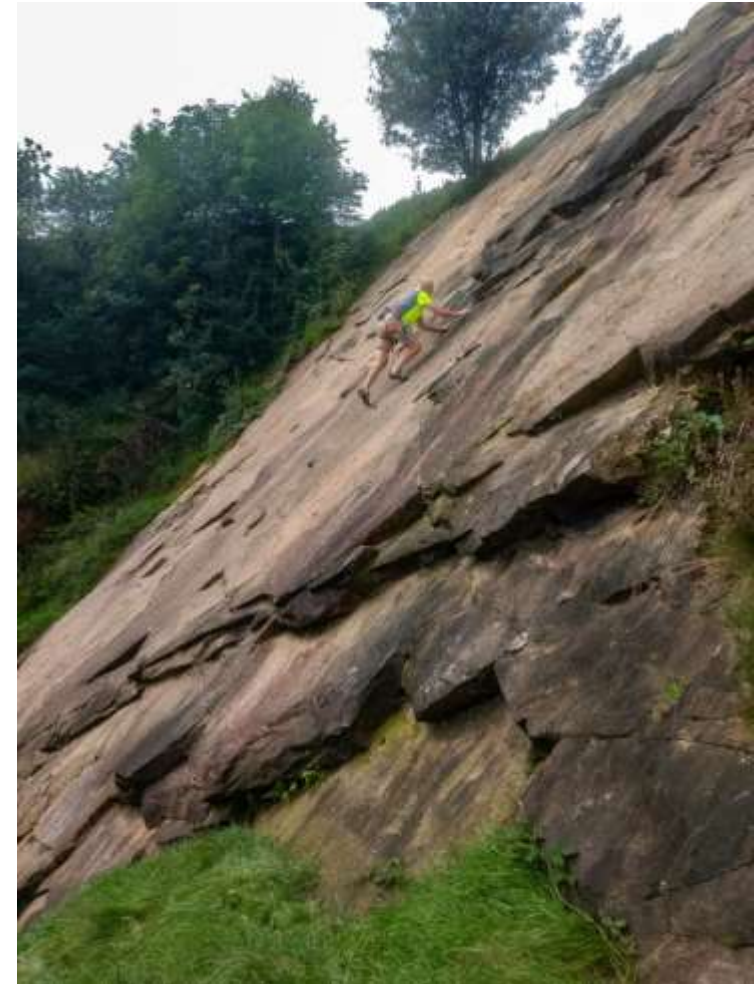
<https://www.lancashirerock.co.uk/assets/pdf/2021/noggarth-sept-2021.pdf>

Egerton

There is a cracking new route (E2ish) on Grooved Walls between Aethelred and Aethelred Groove, which would be a good climb to do after the Nov 6th clean up.

Warton Main Qy

By agreement with Lancashire County Council, The Lakes craggers (mainly Nick Wharton) have put up some good new sports routes at the right side of the quarry.



Guidebooks

Northern Rock

Northern Rock is a Wired Guidebook which has selective coverage of Northumberland, North York Moors, Yorkshire Limestone, Yorkshire Grit and Lancashire. It is now in the final stages of production, and should be available by Spring 2022.

Lancs Definitives

Following the BMC's decision to pull out of definitive guidebooks, a small group of activists has been formed that aim to maintain definitive printed guidebooks for Lancashire climbing. Initially these will be printed as three volumes covering all the climbing in the 2016 *Lancashire Rock* guidebook. Each guide will be produced in a similar format to *Lancashire Rock Update* (2019), but will have several more pages. These will be low cost, not for profit, guidebooks with limited print runs, so that they can be updated regularly as required.

It is proposed that the first volume, which will cover the Bolton Area plus Cadshaw and Round Barn, will be available by early summer 2022.

