

## Review of Lancs Guidebook and Access

Over the past couple of years there has been a lot of work undertaken to improve climbing at crags throughout the North West. Many climbs and crags are now in a better state than they have ever been thanks to all those climbers who helped out and to the landowners. However, it depends upon local climbers to complete the job. The current situation is summarised below, together with some guidebook queries and an indication of outstanding work (in red) that is required to complete the cleaning programme. As usual any help would be more than welcome. Please let me know if you undertake any of this cleaning.

Also, two general items. First, if someone recently lost a Lancs guide at Wilton, please get back to me. Second, I am still looking for a copy/scan of John Victory's 1954 guide to Frogsmouth.

### ***Rochdale/Littleborough Area***

Bruce Goodwin et al have developed several small new quarries, including Baitings Delf (SD 998186), Dean Royd (SD 941 214), Leach Hill Pinnacles (SD 956 185), Pike Hill (SD 941 184), Shore Qy (SD 925 171), Warland Reservoir Crag (SD 955 251) and White House Qy (SD 968 175).

#### **Blackstone Edge**

Synthesis has still not been led.

#### **Castle Qy**

There is now a potential agreement for limited access.

#### **Cows Mouth**

Unfortunately, despite strong objections from local climbers, some poetry has been chipped onto the rock, but fortunately, no climbs are affected.

There are still no reports of Flak being led – anyone want to try it?



Pike Hill: Lower Crag

#### **CrossStone**

Brambles at the foot of the rock need removal.

#### **Reddyshore**

It is not clear whether War Dance has been climbed without the aid peg. Any information about an aid-free ascent would be welcome.

## **Summit**

Some climbs have recently been excavated and all routes are now in a good state. Two additional buttresses have been developed on the hillside.

## ***Bury Area***

### **Deeply Vale**

Now extensively cleaned by MoB.

### **Lee Qy**

This quarry at SD 868 211 near Bacup now has ten routes. There are still possibilities for new routes, but the obvious lines on Book Buttress have now all been done.



Reddishore: War Dance

Lee Qy (Book Buttress)

### **Naden Valley**

This is a new area with some short climbs NW of Rochdale, at SD 858 164.

### **Pinfold**

An access problem which arose this year has now been resolved, but please use the access via white gate described in Lancs Rock.

Some belay stakes may need replacement.

The peg on Necromicon probably needs replacement.

### **Troy**

Most climbs are in good condition, but all the North Face routes need the removal of brambles, ferns and loose rock, which may also reveal a couple of new lines.

## **Bolton Area**

### **Anglezarke**

Some trees have been marked for removal and this work is being undertaken by UU.

Groups are still abseiling down the Left Walls and causing a significant amount of rock damage. There are clear notes in Lancashire Rock asking group users to abseil elsewhere, but these are being ignored. **Signs are to be erected that direct group users to the abseil station at Wirebrush Crack in Lester Mill.**

**The sandy soil above Many Happy Returns needs stabilising to reduce run off.**

### **Egerton**

The qy has been sold at auction and a meeting has been arranged with the new owner.

**Most of routes on Grooved Walls and either side of Ceremony need a clean – Any offers.**

### **Jumbles**

Climbing has recently been opened up at Jumbles reservoir near Ousell's Nest, at SD 736 138. This now gives over 60 climbs

### **Lester Mill**

**Remove two saplings and some ferns on rock in Intro Bay.**

**Newsom Slab, clean top. Remove sapling on The Set Back.**

**Remove ferns from The Corner.**

Possible new line up the corner left of Doomsday – Ant takers.

Saplings have recently been removed at the foot of rock throughout the qy and the abseil point above Wirebrush Crack has been improved.

### **Ousell's Nest**

This crag has been greatly improved by the council, which has cut back trees at the foot of the rock and has banded the pool that once prevented access. Thus, the climbs are now much more accessible, and are worth a visit to any climbers who like sustained routes. The routes between **Captain Hookleg to Angel's Kiss, plus Anarchy and Artificial Insinuation still need a clean – Any offers.**

### **Wilton One**

The Bolton end of The Allotment has recently been much cleaned, but several routes still require brushing off. The following routes on The Allotment still need cleaning: **Merchant Crack, Flimnap, Grotty Muckden, Triptophane, Dinah, Eccles Escalator and parts of the horizontal break on Lime Street.**

**Has anyone finished Adidas without the iron spike? If so, please let me know.**

The first stage of dealing with the outflow from a field drain above Deodand has been successfully completed, but will be slightly re-routed. **Routes in this area need a clean.**

Jimmy Nip needs a clean.

Loose blocks above Supercrack have now been removed, but some loose soil still needs brushing off (unless all the rain has done it for us).

The large tree on the rock in the centre of The Graveyard needs attention before it starts destabilising the rock and the **right side of The Graveyard needs cleaning.**



Willow Wall (Before)

After (but on really miserable day)

### Wilton Three

Agreement now appears to have been reached with Gun Club that they are responsible for fence maintenance.

Most of the large blocks from the foot of Constables Area have been moved.

### Wilton Four

A stile and sign have been erected at the Brownstones side of the bend. This gives access via Wilton Four into the other qys.



## ***Blackburn Area***

### **Cadshaw**



The Main Qy has been extensively cleaned, and is well worth a visitors. However, **visitors are asked to brush off any loose soil.**

States Wall has been cleaned and the belays improved to provide an abseil descent. Weasel Qy is in good condition

Trees have been planted below the outcrop and those nearest to it will shade it. UU have agreed that these will be removed.

Cadshaw Qy: Before and After

### **Central Qy**

The owner of Central Qy is rather aggressive and though the quarry is designated as Open Country, this has temporarily been suspended. Avoid until further notice.

### **Kemp Delf**

Half a dozen climbs are now recorded at Kemp Delf near Stanhill.

## Denham

The corner of Wet and the ledge at 8 metres on Acapulco and Damp, have now been extensively cleaned. Also, small shrubs have been removed from the horizontal break taken by Complete Streaker. The boulder problem Crap Pot has been damaged by fire and should be avoided until the rock stabilises.

The old aid routes of Splash and Superindirectissima have been abandoned.

The Intermediate Area has been cleaned.

There are still ferns, heather and grass to remove from some of the Overhang Area routes. In particular, the routes between Central Buttress and Funny Farm and those left of Main Break could all benefit from a clean.



Ferns and Heather to be removed from Overhang Area

## Hoghton

Virtually all routes have now been cleaned, and are in good condition. This has involved a lot of work, but the improvements have been dramatic (see 'Before' and 'After' photos on next page). However, Highway Star and Fallout still have the remains of rhododendrons blocking vital cracks and these stumps and routes need digging out.

There is still some soil and grass that needs removing from above Bowkers Ck and on Easy Rte.

The old artificial routes have been largely abandoned, including Main Overhang, Terry's Torment, Ergonome's and Drupe etc.

Most of the agreed protection bolts have been replaced.

Sadly, there have been holds chipped below Finger Traverse to facilitate a rather pointless dyno.

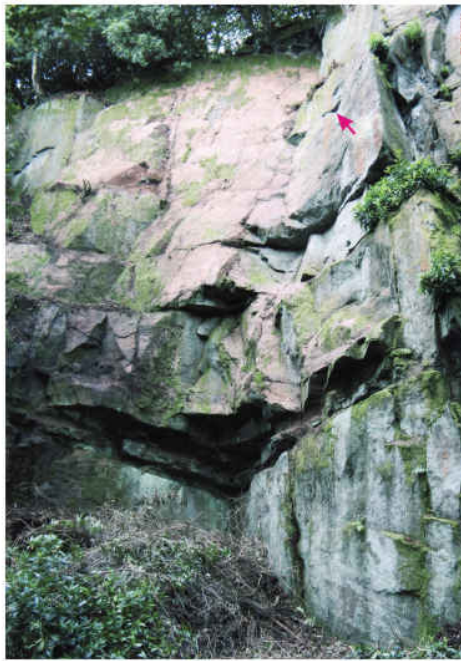


# Review of Lancs Crag: Revised Jan 1 2013

Just in case you wondered what can be done at a crag clean-up, both photos show Book of Fate (HVS, 5a) at Hoghton - Honest (arrows point to a common feature)



July



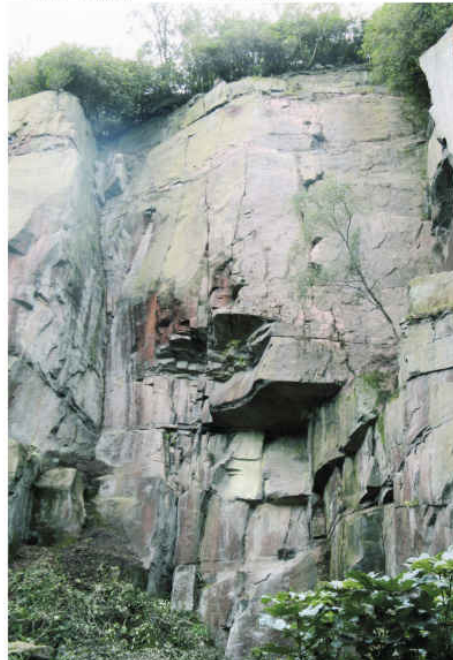
August

## Eight more routes reclaimed at Hoghton:

Goliath's Groove  
Highway Star  
Slime Corner

Deaf School  
Fallout  
New Wave

Flight of Rat  
French Lieut



## **Round Barn**

All routes have now been cleaned and are in good condition. It now makes a good evening crag for beginners.

Two bolt belays installed for routes on The Void and The Isolation Ward and a large block has been removed below Cuckoo Waltz.

## **Stanworth**

The BMC is currently considering an offer to take over Stanworth now that the adjacent land fill site has been restored.

## ***Pendle/Bowland Area***

### **Craig Y Longridge**

Bolts or a chain are to be installed above The Pit to facilitate exit from these routes.

### **Kemple End**

This short gritstone quarry at SD 688 405 gives a couple of dozen climbs.



Kemple End

### **Witches**

Most bolts and some belay stakes have been replaced.

## ***Carnforth/Silverdale Area***

### **Barrow Scout Cove**

Climbers are asked not to climb, or access, the area right of Scouse, due to the archaeological importance of a Neolithic cave dwelling.



## Heysham

It is important that climbers do not climb on the boulders below the Viking Graves.

On the traditional part of Crag in the Woods, Nettle Tea is still not led.

## Trowbarrow

Please note that motor cycles are prohibited from Trowbarrow because of damage to fragile and rare plants. If any motor cycling is being undertaken, climbers are asked either to photograph the bikes and then contact the BMC, or else to report the matter to Lancaster Police.

Some trees below Suspension Wall and in front of Red Wall are to be removed.

A massive perched block above Perseverance has been removed.

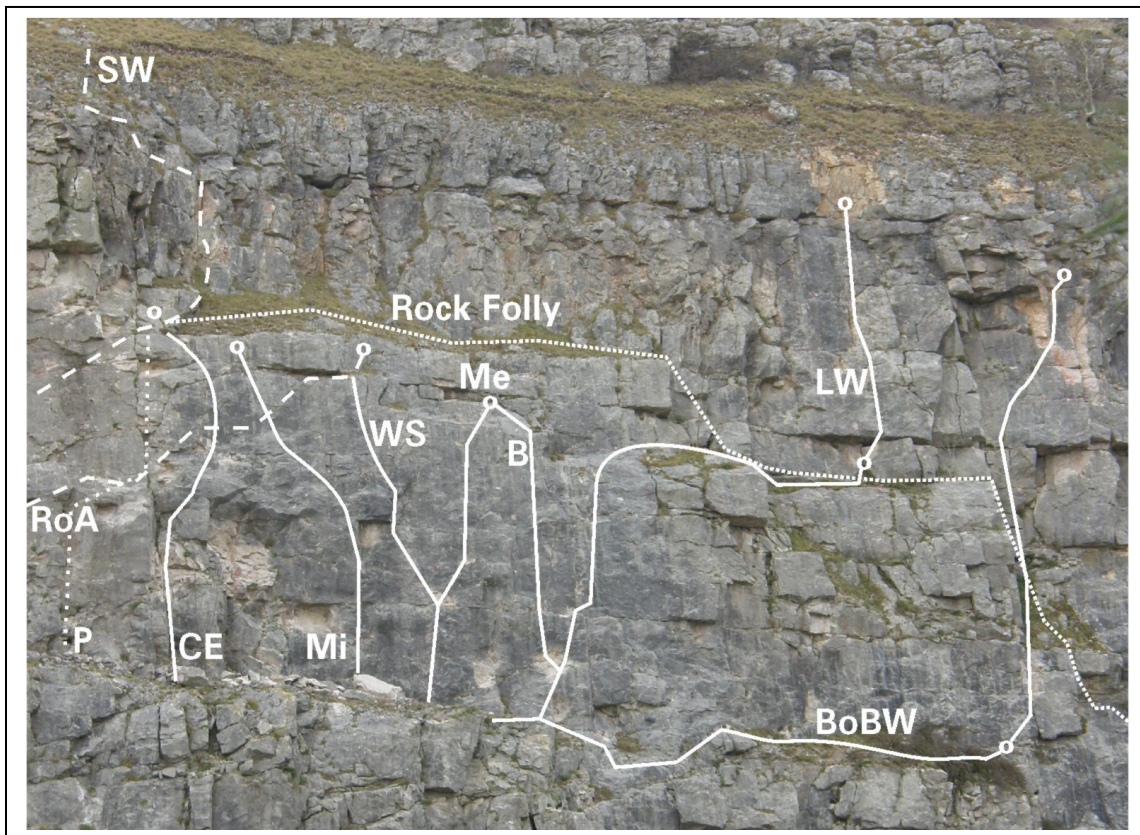
Loose rock above top left end of Red Wall has been removed. Some trees may also be removed from the foot of Red Wall.

## Warton Pinnacle Crag

The RSPB has removed a lot of trees and shrubs from the foot of the rocks, making the climbing much more exposed and enjoyable.

## Warton Main Qy

Between the end of February and the end of June there may be restrictions to protect nesting birds. Please check notices in the car park before climbing during these times and keep up our excellent record of past years.



Warton Main: Terrace Wall – Right Side

Part of the qy has seen a new lease of life with several sports routes from The Terrace. Also, there have been some new routes on the rock to the right of The Terrace and the line of Rock Folly has cleaned and been improved. For details of the new routes at Warton Main, send an e-mail to [les.ainsworth@synergy-ergs.com](mailto:les.ainsworth@synergy-ergs.com).

**Remove saplings and grass, mainly at bottom of Iceberg, Real World, and Third World.**

## **Warton Upper Crag**

Wire fencing just to the left of the Upper Crag has been cut more than once. There is a stile nearby, so please let's make sure that climbers do not damage the fencing.

## **Woodwell**

The National Trust are now permitting bouldering on the buttresses on the other side to the road to Woodwell. Cross the wall on the bend about 100 metres from Wolf House Gallery, but do not go past the signs.

## ***Final Thoughts***

A happy New Year to all Lancs climbers and a special thanks to all of you who supported efforts to improve the crags last year. Please get onto our local crags in 2013 and enjoy the benefits of climbing the routes that have recently been restored. There is plenty of variety and you may well be surprised to find improved route quality on crags that you have not visited for some time.

I know that I have said it many times and it has become a scratchy record, but local climbers really can do a lot towards maintaining our stock of climbs. It only takes a commitment to get out for just a couple of hours – not a massive ask. Most of the crag cleaning in our area is still done by less than a couple of dozen climbers, out of thousands of BMC members (and other climbers) in the North West, so any help would make a big difference. Even cleaning up a mediocre V Diff can stop the cycle of losing the neighbouring route, then a buttress becoming neglected and better, nearby routes being lost.

If the cleaning work was distributed evenly, it would probably only require less than a couple of hours effort by each climber every ten or so years, but it is a mammoth task for the limited number of climbers who do make the effort. It would be great if all the red items on this summary could be removed by Easter, but that will only be possible if more climbers decide that, for once, they will not leave it to others.

Also, climbers should note that the easiest way to keep our crags clean is to remove bits of vegetation whilst climbing, before these start to cause a problem. So, get in the habit of brushing off that bit of soil on a hold, peeling off that small bit of grass, ripping up that bit of heather that is starting to overhang the top of a climb, or removing that small shoot before it becomes a well rooted sapling. That way we could keep our climbs clean with very little effort. Similarly, if you find a peg that is clearly past its sell-by-date, go back some time and replace it – otherwise the next fall on that route may cause an accident that you could have prevented.

Les A (Jan 1st, 2013)