



BMC Participation Statement.

The BMC recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Summerhill

Boulder Park

Summer Boulder Park

Summerhill Lane
off Catcote Road
Hartlepool
TS25 4LL
Tel: 01429 284584
Web: www.sunnysummerhill.com

The Summerhill Boulder Park

Summerhill is a 100 acre site on the western edge of Hartlepool which has been transformed for the benefit of conservation and outdoor sports. Rock climbing is one of 8 key sports that was identified for the site. In order to provide for climbing a ground breaking Boulder Park was created in late 1998. The Boulder Park provides climbing on eight purpose built boulders that aim to recreate natural climbing areas. For information about Summerhill, including how to join the Friends of Summerhill Group, please Contact (01429) 284584.

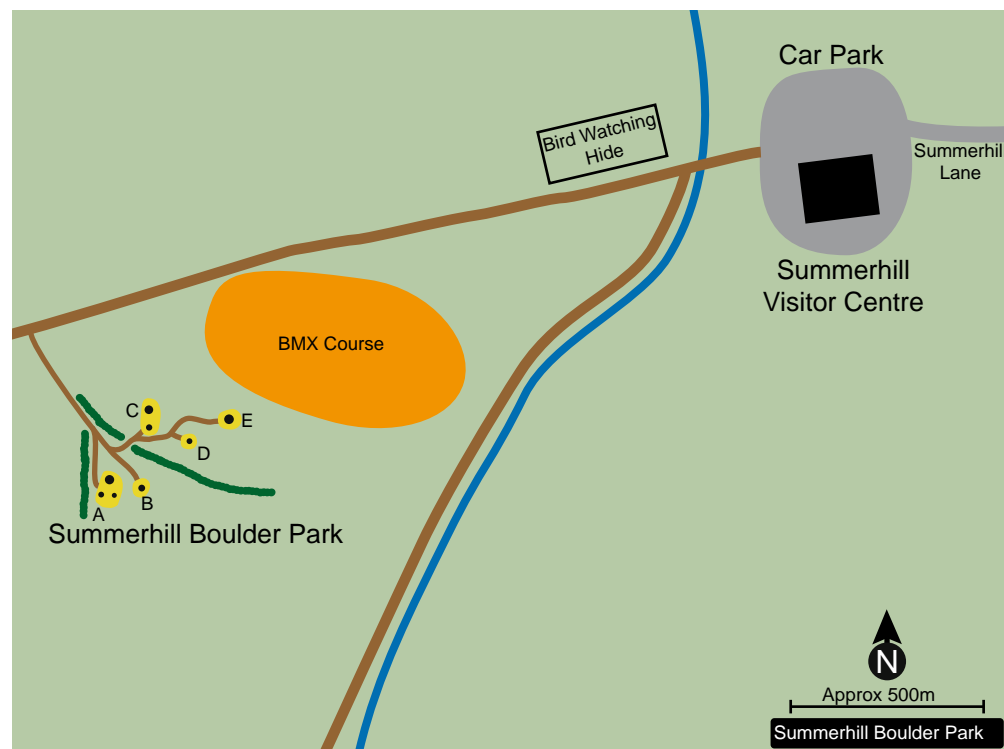
How to find Summerhill

From the North:

Take the A179 Hartlepool turn off from the A19. Turn right at the Hart roundabout. Follow the road for about 1¾ miles and turn right at the traffic lights. Head straight on for about a mile and turn right down Summerhill Lane.

From the South:

Take the A689 turn off from the A19. Travel into Hartlepool and turn left along Truro Drive at the traffic lights. At the 'T' junction at the end of this road turn right along Catcote Road. Head straight on for about a mile and turn left down Summerhill Lane.



Access and Approaches

Summerhill is an open access Country Park, you do not need to pre-book. The Visitor Centre has a car park. Be aware that between November and March the car park is only open between 9.00am to 4.30pm. Take the path that leads west from the Summerhill Visitor Centre. After five minutes take a left turn at the sign. This leads to Area A: Dingly Dell.

Bouldering Etiquette

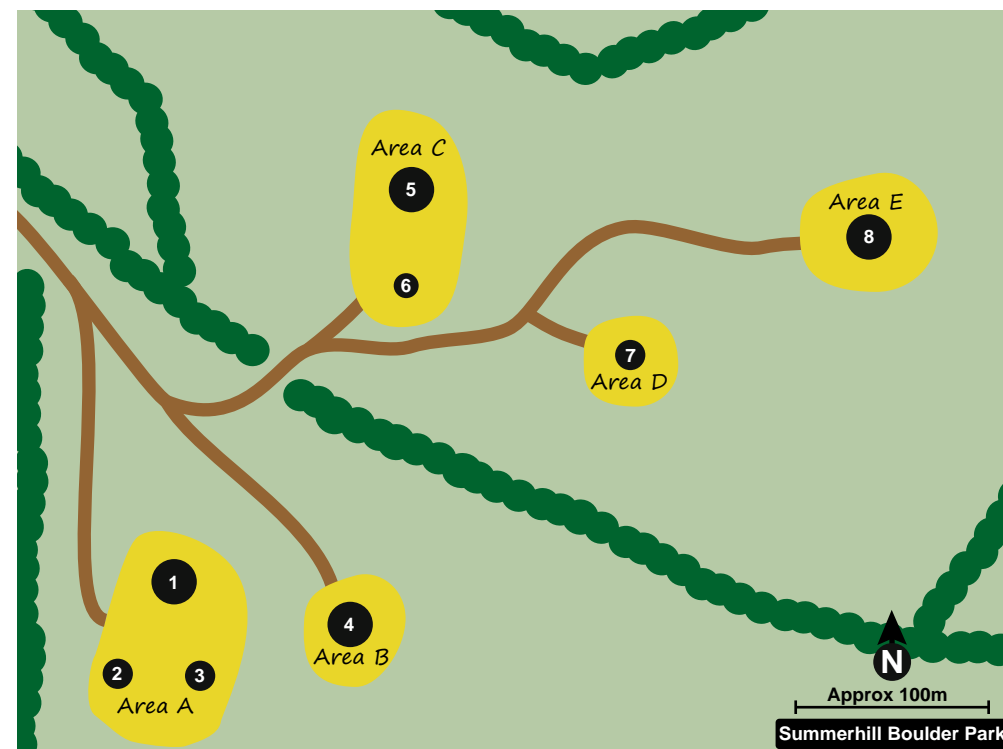
Keep your boots squeaky-clean, it makes good sense and can make the problems feel easier. Do not use wire brushes or resin, nylon brushes are acceptable. Due to the nature of the sprayed concrete construction no leading is permitted and no protection (Rocks, wires, cams or pegs) should be placed in the cracks. Natural threads are situated at the top of each boulder to permit top roped climbing.

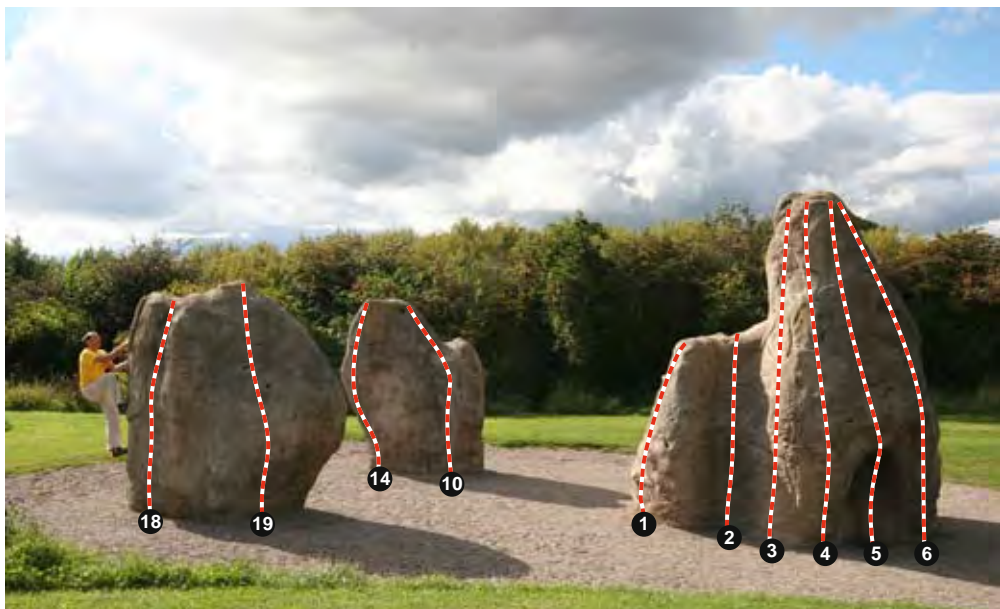
Grading

All the problems have been graded using Font grades. This is a measure of the amount of effort required. See the grade table on page 14.

The Problems

The two maps show the overall layout of the boulders. On approaching from Summerhill you will usually section A 'Dingly Dell'. The guide is written starting from these, the lowest, and easiest, group of boulders. The problems are described from left to right (anti-clockwise) around each boulder, starting with the easiest route up (and down) that boulder.





Area A: The Dingly Dell

Boulder One

1. South Face Route Easy

The short slab soon leads to the half height ledge and then the top. This is also the easiest descent!

2. Font 1

The half height ledge is easily reached by bridging up the wide groove.

3. Font 3+

Climb the wall right of the groove using positive crimps and small pockets - no bridging.

4. Font 4

Interesting moves lead up the rounded rib just left of *The Chute*.

5. Font 3

Tricky moves up the wall above the exit to *The Chute*.

6. Font 2+

Climb the wall between *The Chute* and the small "peep hole".

7. Font 3

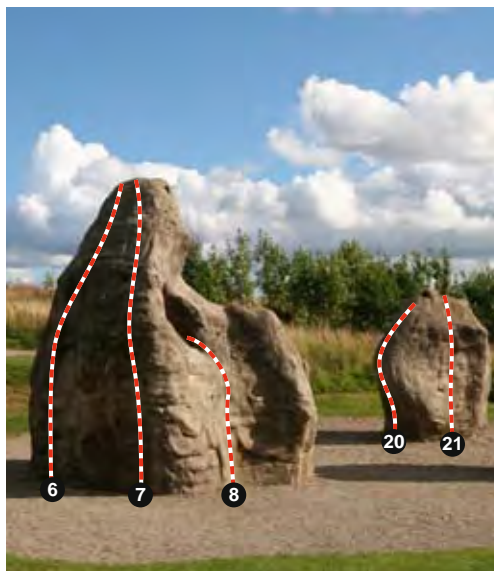
Climb the north face just right of the small "peep hole" using pockets and pebbles.

8. The Chute Easy

Climb the groove and slide down the chute.

9. Font 4+

Low level traverse.



Boulder Two

10. Font 1

Use pockets in the east face. This is also the easiest descent!

11. Font 2+

To gain the ledge via the short north wall is not without interest.

12. Font 2+

Climb the west face on incut pockets.

13. Font 4

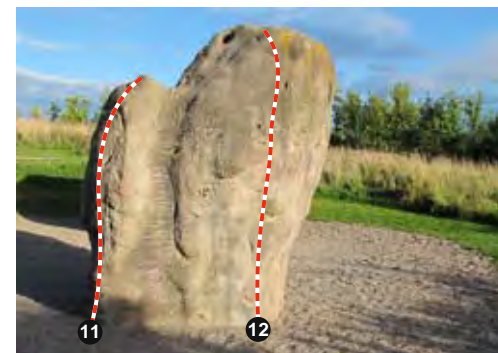
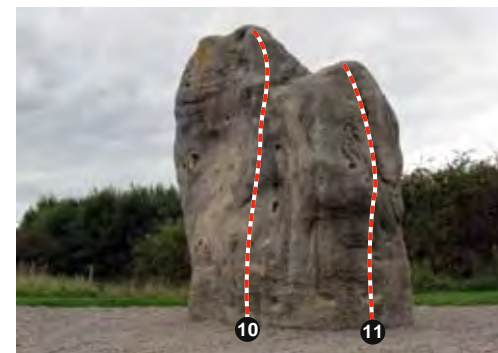
SS. Use small crimps and pockets to tackle the short south face.

14. Font 3+

SS. Climb the arête.

15. Font 4

The pebbles are out of bounds on the low level traverse.



Boulder Three

16. The Flake Font 3

SS. Layback up the big flake. This is also the easiest descent!

17. Font 3

The rib.

18. Font 3

The shallow scoop.

19. Font 3+

Climb the steep slab via a couple of good pockets.

20. Font 6a

SS. The undercut rib direct.

21. Font 3

The west wall via the thin flake and pockets.

22. Low Level Traverse Font 6b+

Start and finish at the large flake.



Area B: The Splendid Prow

Boulder Four**23. Easy**

The stepped slab/scoop. This is also the easiest descent!

24. The Southern Prow Font 4

Climb the prow direct.

25. Eliminate One Font 3

Climb the wall right of the arête passing the eyes.

26. Crack One Font 2+

Finger locking good!

27. Eliminate Two Font 3+

Climb the wall between the two cracks.

28. Crack Two Font 3

Trickier than *Crack One*.

29. Eliminate Three

The wall between *Crack Two* and *The Splendid Prow* has three worthwhile variations:

- a. **Font 3+** Anything.
- b. **Font 4+** Pockets only. Powerful!
- c. **Font 5** Crimps, no pockets.

30. The Splendid Prow Font 4+

One of the best features at Summerhill.

31. Font 5

Climb the scoop using small pockets only.

32. Font 4

Climb the scoop using natural rock intrusions.

33. Font 5+

Climb the rib using side pulls.

34. Low Level Traverse Font 6a+

Keep feet below the stepped slab to finish.



Many boulders have threads at the top for setting up top ropes.



Problem 33

Area C: Africa

Boulder Five**35. SE Flake Easy**

Follow the huge flake up the slabby groove. This is also the easiest descent!

36. Senegal Font 2+

Climb the south east prow.

37. The Bulge Font 3

Climb the wall left of the crack to a bulge to a choice of tricky finishes.

38. NE Groove Font 2

Climb the corner crack. A classic!

39. Pickpocket Font 2

Follow the large pockets up the wall just right of the big crack.

40. Cape of Good Hope Font 5+

The impressive nose is awkward near the top.

41. Font 2+

The wall can be climbed just right of the prow on large pockets.

42. Central Wall Font 3+

The centre of the splendid west face is climbed mainly on pockets, to finish at the thread. A classic!

43. Font 3+

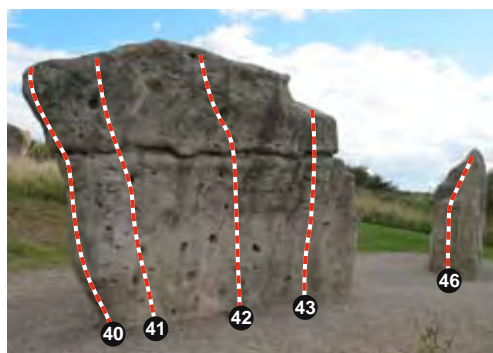
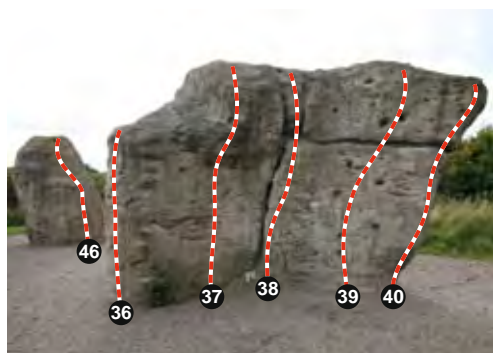
The right edge of the west face on small but positive holds.

44. High Level Traverse Font 4

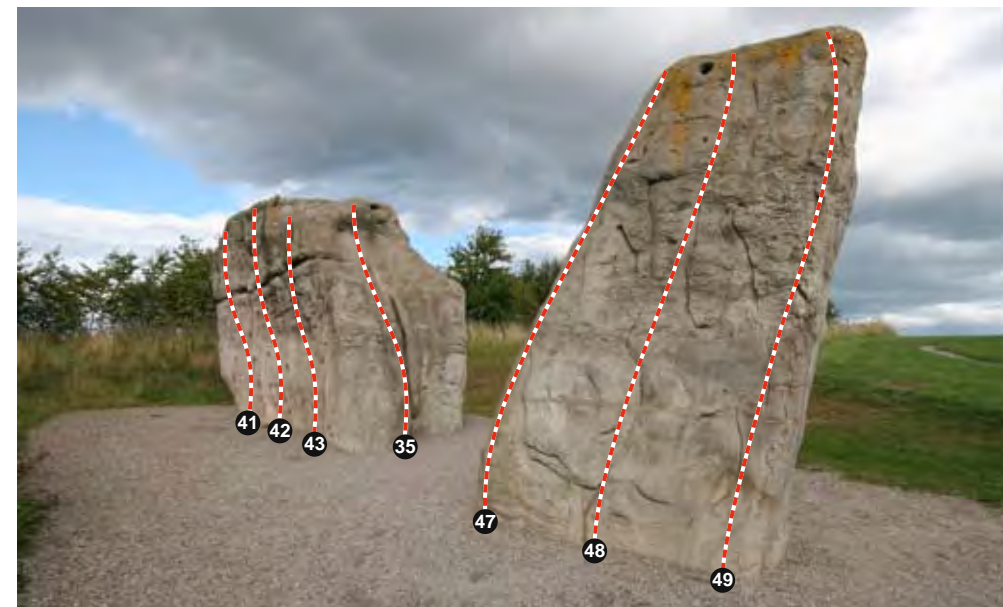
Start up the *NE Groove* then traverse from left to right along the prominent break around the prow and across the west face until it runs out.

45. Low Level Traverse Font 5+

Start at the big crack then traverse the boulder keeping below the horizontal break.



Problem 49

**Boulder Six****46. High Stepper Easy**

The stepped groove. This is also the easiest descent!

47. The Spare Rib Font 3

The thin slabby rib just right of the groove.

48. West Face Font 3+

The centre of the small west face on small but positive holds.

49. Font 5

Climb the arête (without using the crack on the right).

50. That Tempting Crack Font 6b

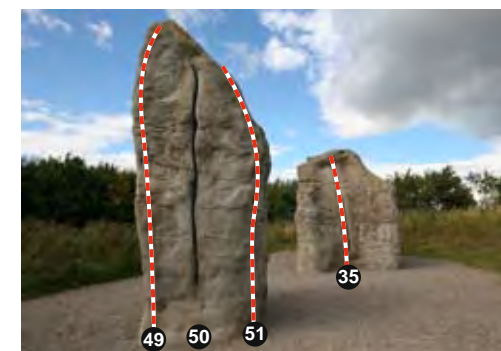
Scratch and scrape up the bloody crack.

51. Font 3

Climb the east face avoiding the left edge.

52. Low Level Traverse Font 6a

Low level traverse. The crux is crossing that crack!



Area D: The Flake

Boulder Seven**53. Easy**

The short pocketed prow is also the easiest descent!

54. Tickler Font 5+

The rounded rib just right of the smooth groove. Tricky.

55. Slip 'n' Slide Font 6a

Climb up through the 'water worn' groove.

56. Crozzley Wall Font 5

Crimp up the crozzley wall.

57. Twin Cracks Font 3+

The twin cracks are not as hard as they appear.

58. The Prominent Flake Font 4

Powerful lay back moves should soon lead to the top.

59. Power On! Font 5+

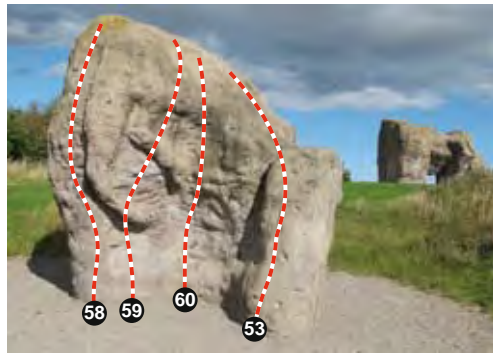
Start at the very base of *The Prominent Flake*. Undercut powerfully up and right, past the second flake, to finish dynamically via a small pocket and a tiny edge. (No bridging).

60. Font 3+

Bridge up through the middle of the scoop.

61. The Low Level Traverse Font 6c+

Start by the descent and traverse left to right. Interesting.



Boulders Five, Six and Seven



Problem 58

Area E: The Elephant

Boulder Eight - North Face**62. Easy**

The eastern slab. This is the easiest descent!

63. Easy Groove Easy

The big scoop/groove on the northern face. This is also an easy descent!

64. Heuco North Font 5

SS on the lowest hole under the belly of the elephant. Power up on big pockets.

65. Awkward Groove Font 1+

The awkward groove just right of the elephants belly.

66. The Northern Prow Font 4

Difficult moves up the undercut start should lead to a slabby ridge.

Boulder Eight - West Face**67. The Circle Route Font 4**

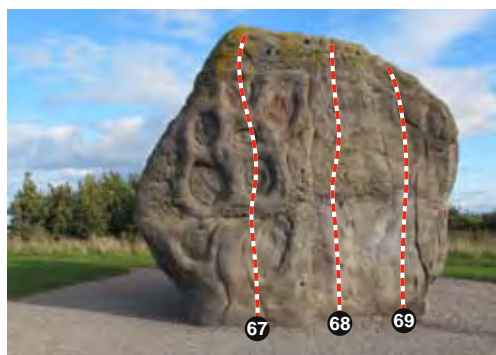
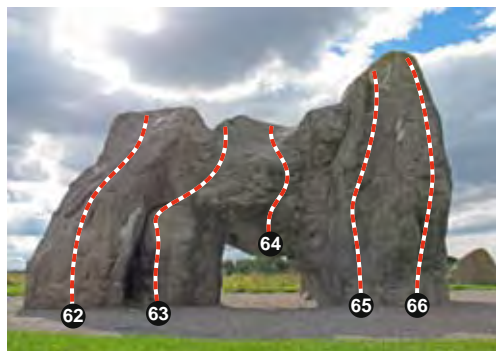
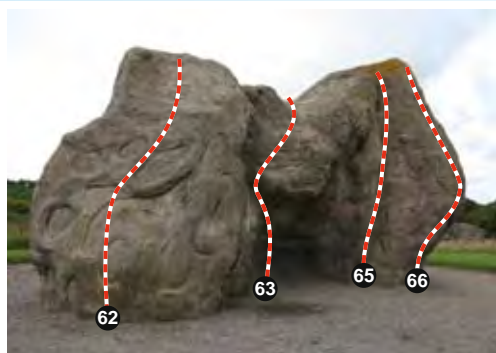
Climb up west face by the easiest line using the oval features.

68. The West Face Font 2

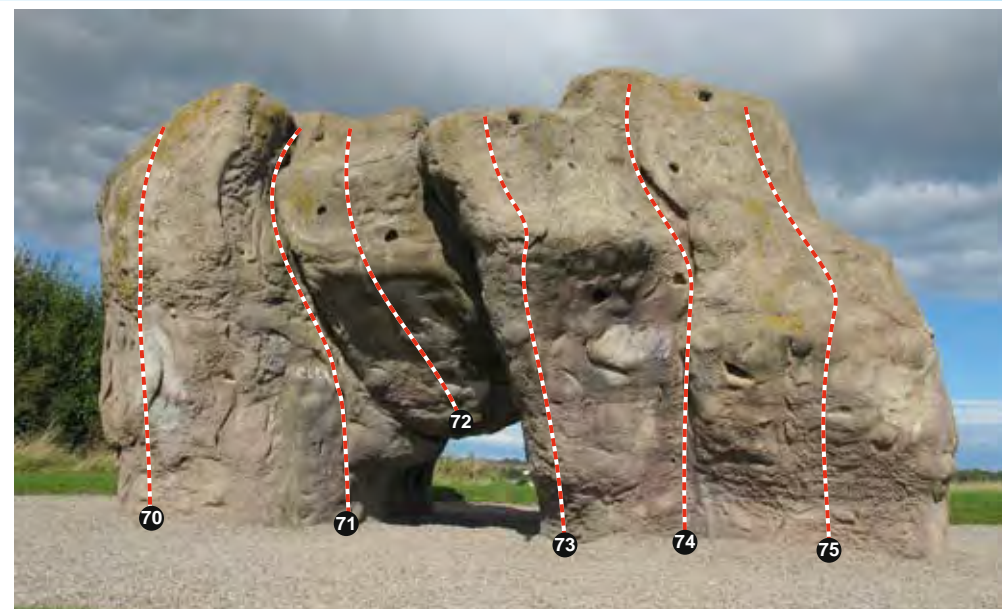
Cruise up the centre of the west face using big pockets.

69. Right Edge Font 5

Climb the wall at the right end of the west face.



Boulders Seven and Eight

**Boulder Eight - South Face****70. Bobble Wall Font 6a**

Climb up the south west face using pockets and pebbles.

71. Font 4

Layback up the fine groove on surprisingly good holds.

72. Hueco South Font 5+

SS on the lowest hole. Powerful moves up the face between the overhanging grooves.

73. Font 5+

Tackle the southern prow direct.

74. Twist 'n' Groove Font 3

The groove just right of the prow.

75. Font 5+

Thin steep slab right of the groove.

76. The Low Level Traverse Font 6a+

Start by the slab on the north face and traverse left to right across the north, west and south faces.



Problem 66

BOULDERING GRADES

It is true to say that there are only two grades, the problems you can do and the problems you can't. To the keen boulderer however, it soon becomes apparent that this can be sub divided into the problems you can do but your mate can't and vice versa! Grading boulder problems is almost an impossible task and this table is an attempt to compare the most popular systems. Boulder grading tends to measure the overall difficulty of a problem. A problem with one short hard move may get 7a and one with a sustained sequence of easier moves may also get 7a. A highball will normally get an extra half grade.

British Technical Grades

These work well for routes but have become too vague for serious bouldering.

Hueco Grade

Developed in Hueco Tanks in Texas, USA by John Sherman ('Verm' to his mates, hence the V). Principally used in the USA. It is popular with definitive UK climbing guidebooks by the BMC and Rockfax.

Font Grade

This system, which originated in the forests of Fontainebleau in France, is becoming increasingly popular with UK boulderers. It is now the grading system of choice in the majority of the UK bouldering guidebooks and is the system that has been used here.

Grading is always such a controversial issue!



Grade Table

Font	UK Technical Grade	Hueco
2+	4a	
3	4b	
3+	4c	VB
4	5a	V0
4+	5b	V1
5	5c	V2
5+	5c	V2
6a		
6a+	6a	V3
6b		V4
6b+		V4
6c	6b	V5
6c+		
7a		V6
7a+		V7
7b	6c	V8
7b+		V9
7c		V10
7c+	7a	V11
8a		V12
8a+		V13
8b	7b	V14
8b		V14

THE NEXT STEP

If you have enjoyed climbing here and would like to develop your climbing further, more information about climbing can be found from **The British Mountaineering Council** (www.thebmc.co.uk).

Other useful sources:

Climbing Books

Rock Climbing Essential Skills and Techniques by Libby Peters
Rockfax Climbing guides and Performance books (www.rockfax.com)

Monthly Climbing Magazines:

Climber (www.climber.co.uk)
Climb (www.climbmagazine.com)

Coaching:

Andrew Earl (www.climbnewcastle.com)
Neil Gresham (www.climbingmasterclass.com)
Dave MacLeod (www.davemacleod.com)

Coaching DVD's

Masterclass Parts 1+2 by Neil Gresham, Crux Films, 2005

Websites:

The BMC (www.thebmc.co.uk)
UK Climbing (www.ukclimbing.com)



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Summerhill History

In 1997 Summerhill was just a network of 8 fields in low-grade agriculture. From 1997 until 2002 most of the works to create the site you see today were carried out including extensive tree planting and the construction of major facilities including the Boulder Park, BMX course, play areas, access road and Visitor Centre.

The vision for Summerhill came together thanks to a partnership including Hartlepool Borough Council, The Countryside Agency, The Forestry Commission, Sport England and Tees Community Forest. The two key aims of making improvements for conservation and outdoor activities were achieved thanks to an investment of £2.2million. The money came from a variety of sources including Sport England Lottery Fund, European Regional Development Fund, The Countryside Agency, Hartlepool Borough Council, Woodland Grant scheme and Countryside Stewardship scheme. We also received a donation of 27,000 sapling trees from Shotton Paper Company.

Key developments were; the main phase of tree planting (completed: winter1997/98), the access road and car park (completed: early 1998), the Boulder Park (completed: January 1999), the Visitor Centre (completed: July 1999), BMX course (completed: September 2000) and play areas (completed: March 2002)

Useful Web Links:

www.hartlepool.gov.uk – Hartlepool Borough Council's official website, the first point for information about all the Council's services.

www.hartlepoolnow.com – The complete guide to organisations, assistance and information in Hartlepool

www.destinationhartlepool.co.uk – The official website for tourists and visitors to Hartlepool. Includes listings of accommodation, attractions and places to eat.

www.summerhillbirdclub.co.uk – Website for the bird club based at Summerhill. Details of meetings and events as well as information about our feathered friends!

www.northeastbmx.com - News, events and information about BMX cycling in the North East featuring the Summerhill BMX course. New members welcome.

www.teesarchaeology.com – Website for Cleveland archaeological service

www.clok.org.uk – The orienteering club for the Cleveland region


www.thebmc.co.uk – Official website for the British Mountaineering Council

www.britishcycling.org.uk - Official website for British Cycling

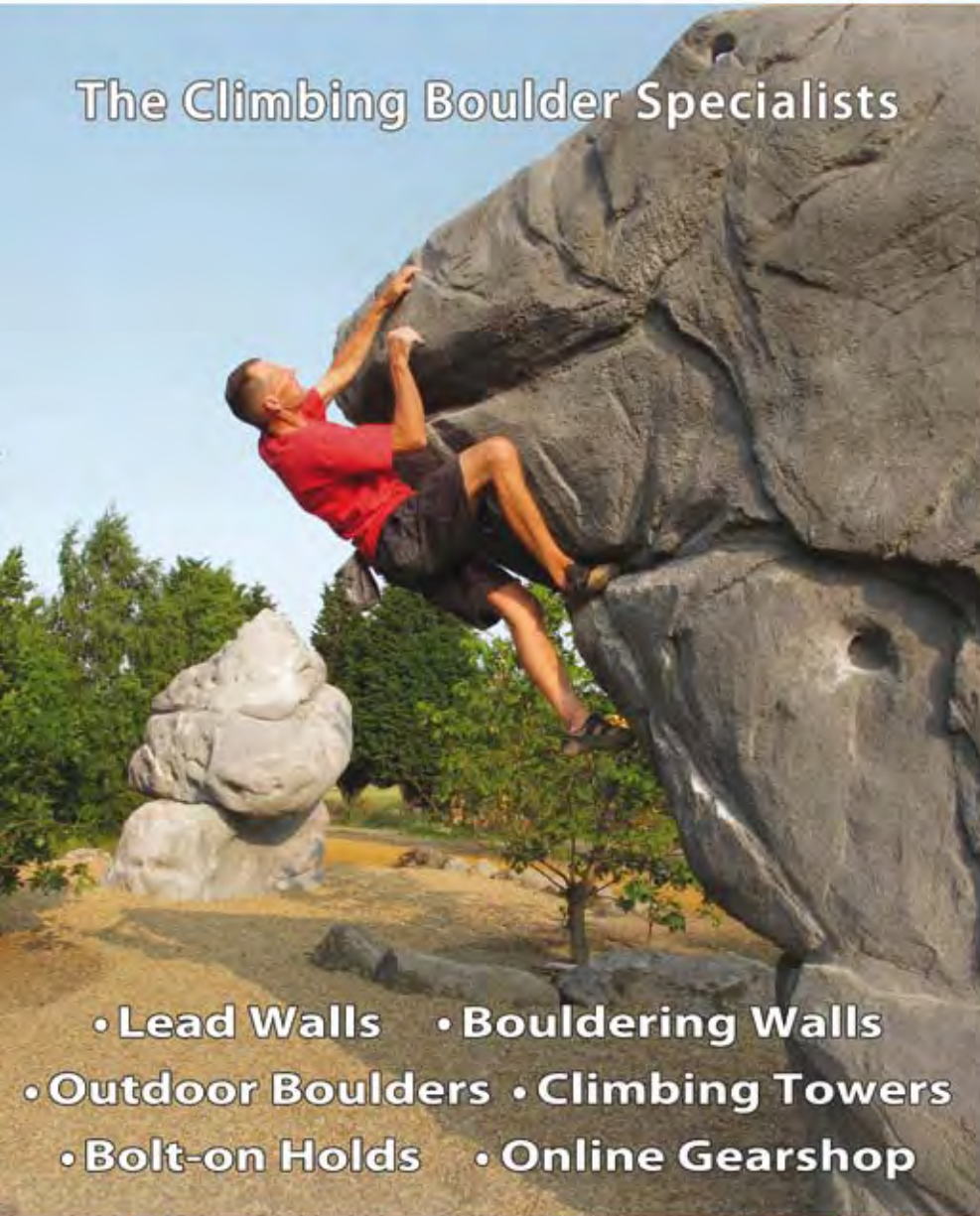
www.gnas.org – Website for the Grand National Archery Society. Information about archery countrywide.

www.hartlepoolburnroad.co.uk – Website site for Hartlepool's Burn Road Harriers athletic club.


ROCKWORKS



The Climbing Boulder Specialists



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