

Lord's Seat

Introduction

Lord's Seat is a small grit outcrop on Barden Fell, 400 yards east of the more well known Simon's Seat. It offers some superb bouldering away from the crowds in a wild moorland setting. Landings are generally good, and there is a good mix of climbing with lots of roof problems, the occasional slab, crack and arête, and a few highballs. There is also a fair amount of easy soloing.

There are three main areas, all of which have good climbing. The most extensive area is the south face of the main summit of Lord's Seat, which consists of two distinct tiers. The north face is smaller but has three good buttresses. The third area is Wall Buttress, slightly further east than the Lord's Seat itself and separated from it by a stone wall.

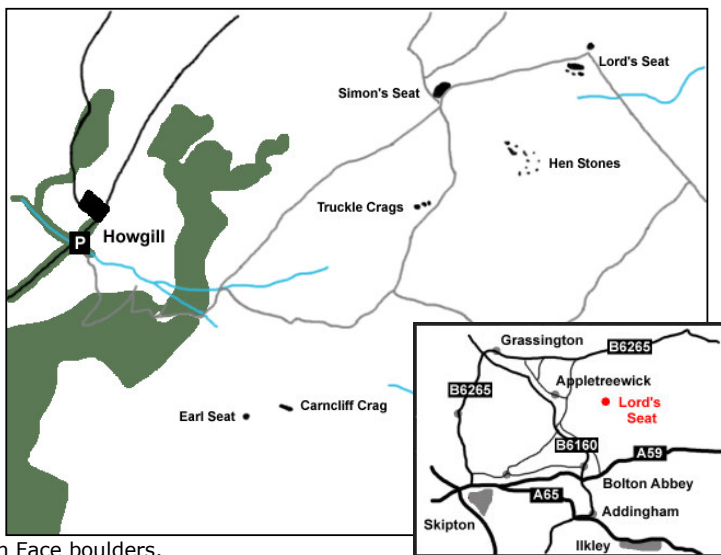
Lord's Seat

- 64 problems
- Grades from V0- to V9
- High moorland setting
- North & south facing
- Approach: 35 minutes walk

Access and Directions

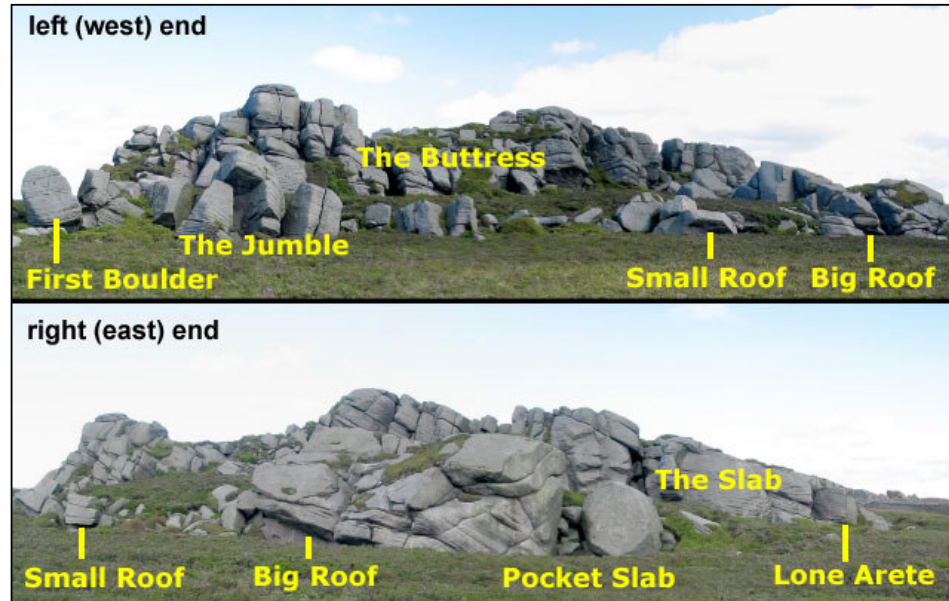
The quickest approach is from Howgill (grid ref SE 064592). Follow the road from Bolton Abbey past Barden Bridge and on towards Appletreewick. A few miles past Barden Bridge a gravel track leads off the road to the right, at a point where the road heads left down a hill. There is space for 4-5 cars at the end of the track.

From here a path leads very steeply up the hillside through the forest, eventually emerging on to the moor. Continue along the path beside the wall to Simon's Seat. Lord's Seat is the obvious rocky outcrop 400m further on. About 35 minutes walk in total. The path arrives at the crag at its western end - follow the path round to the left for the North Face and Wall Buttress, or turn right for the South Face boulders.



Lord's Seat lies within the Barden Fell access area. There are no rights of way but access is not a problem except when grouse shooting is taking place. Shooting is most frequent in the month from the start of the season on August 12th, although it continues sporadically until December. During this time the area can be closed for days at a time, but is always open on Sundays. Shooting dates are posted at the car park, and can be obtained from the Yorkshire Dales National Park authority (phone 01756 752774). Dogs are not allowed.

The South Face

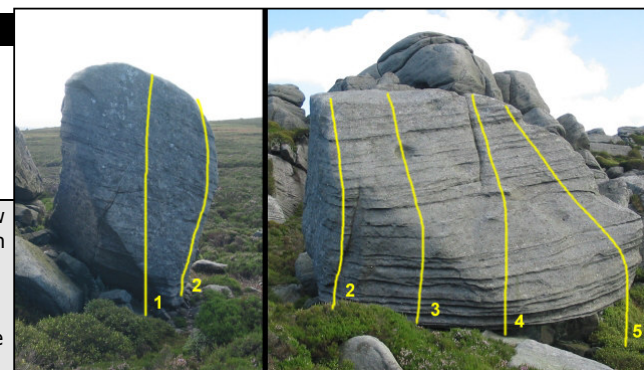


The south side of Lord's Seat consists of two distinct tiers. The lower tier is comprised of a series of separate boulders, amongst which are found several good roof and slab problems. The buttresses of the upper tier tend to be larger and of less interest to boulderers.

The problems are described from left to right on the lower tier (looking in), then right to left on the upper tier.

First Boulder

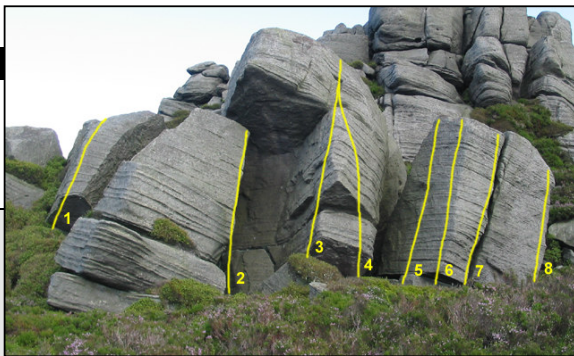
An isolated boulder at the left-hand (west) end of the lower tier. It has a big slab on its front face, with a steeper wall and arête to the left.



- 1 **V3** The centre of the narrow wall left of the big slab. Pull on with a layaway and shallow pocket, then slap for the top. Nice.
- 2 **V5** The left side of the arête is a struggle on slopers. Good climbing, but the rock is crumbly.
- 3 **V2** The left side of the slab past a large pocket. Reachy at the start.
- 4 **V1** The centre of the slab, using the short crack, is harder than it looks.
- 5 **V0-** The undercut right edge of the slab. Easy after the entertaining start.

The Jumble

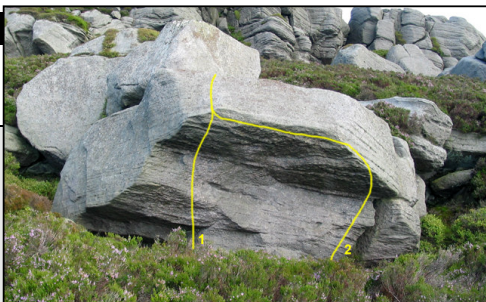
This is an excellent area, consisting of a jumble of small boulders, with several good arête and crack problems.



- 1 **V2** Climb the nose from a very awkward sit start.
- 2 **V3** The arête in the gully, climbed on its right side. Bad landing.
- 3 **V0-** The right arête of the recess has nice climbing.
- 4 **V0- Ripple Wall.** The rippled wall is even better. Delicate and high.
- 5 **V1** On the next block, climb the precarious steep slab next to the arête.
- 6 **V1-** The left side of the arête has excellent delicate climbing. Feels high, but the landing is good.
- 7 **V0-** The crack, with nice easy laybacking.
- 8 **V2** The arete right of the crack is good.
- V3** The right side of the arête, from a sit start, is tricky.
- V3** The wall right of the arête from a sit start is well worthwhile.

Small Roof

A small isolated boulder with a roof at mid-height, and two good problems.



- 1 **V2** Starting with left hand on a good layaway below the left edge of the roof, reach for the lip and finish up the next problem.
- 2 **V4** From a sit start at the right end of the roof, pull up to the lip and traverse all the way left to finish with a rockover onto the slab. Superb.



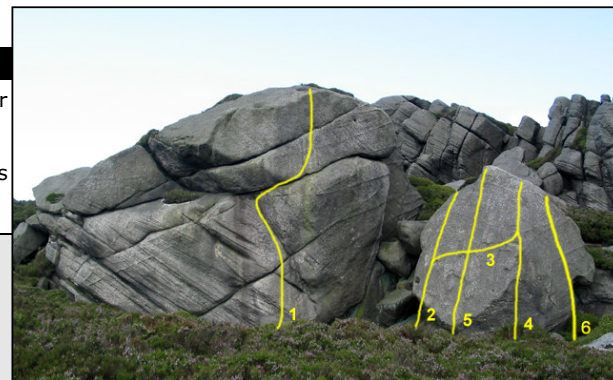
Big Roof

The next boulder has a much bigger roof, which has an excellent strenuous traverse.

- 1 **V5** Traverse the lip of the roof from right to left with a hard move where the roof widens.
- 2 **V? Project.** Use a large flake to climb the roof at its widest point.

Pocket Slab

This much bigger boulder at the far right of the lower tier has a steep and high front face, while the boulder beside it is smaller and has some good slab climbing.



- 1 **V0 Larkin's Right.** Layback the obvious crack in the steep wall to reach a sloping break, then continue to the top if you're brave enough. High.
- 2 **V0- Pocket Wall.** The line of pockets up the left side of the slabby boulder.
- 3 **V0-** Start up the pockets but then traverse right to finish up the arête.
- 4 **V1** Lunge for the good hold on the right arête and continue to the top.
- 5 **V4** An eliminate up the centre of the slab without any of the big pockets.
- 6 **V3** The narrow pebbly slab right of the arête.



Lone Arete

At the extreme right end of the upper tier is a small arête.

- V0** The arête on its right, moving left round the arête at the top.
- 1 **V0** The left side of the arête is better.
- 2 **V1** Climb the short wall left of the arête. Surprisingly, easier than the arête.

The Slab

This big, easy angled slab has good climbing in the lower grades.

- 1 **V0** The slim buttress left of the slab - the main interest comes from the sit start.
- 2 **V0-** The left bounding corner of the slab.
- 3 **V0-** The centre of the slab.
- 4 **V0-** The right edge of the slab is much the same.



The Buttress

The big buttresses in the centre of the crag have little of interest to the boulderer. However a big roof further left has two quality problems, including one of Yorkshire's classic dynoes. Left again is a small nose, and further left a steep wall in a gully.



- 1 **V1** Follow the handrail on the right side of the roof to the apex and finish straight up.
- 2 **V4 The Roof Dyno.** A superb dyno on the huge roof. From a flake in the centre, jump leftwards to catch a jug on the lip. Wild!
- 3 **V6 Gorgeous Geordies.** From a sit start, climb the nose, moving left on slopers to a final rockover.
- 4 **V2** The reachy wall in the gully.

The North Face

The boulders on the north side are described from right to left (looking in to the crag).



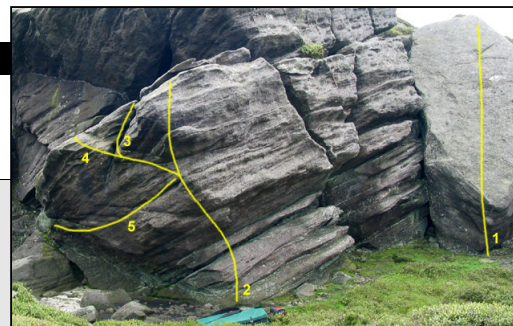
Pebble Arete

Towards the right side of the north face is a short pebbly arete.

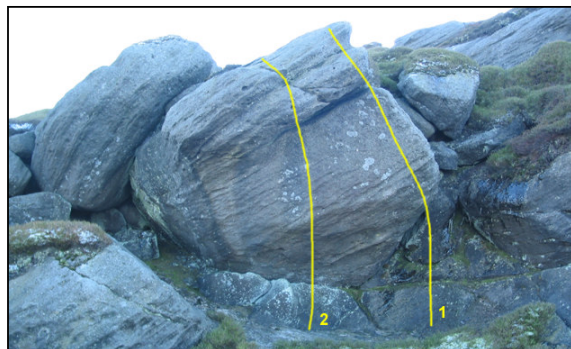
- 1 **V1** Climb the hanging arete.

Overhang Buttress

This is the big overhanging buttress in the centre of the north face, with a slim undercut slab to its right.



- 1 **V0** The long slab has a tricky start followed by nice easy padding.
- 2 **V1** From a sit-start under the roof, climb the right edge of the roof on huge holds. Excellent.
- 3 **V2** Start as for the previous problem but move left to finish up the wide crack.
- 4 **V3** As for the previous problem to the crack, then finish on the left.
- 5 **V9 Ironside.** The obvious low level, left-to-right traverse on small sharp crimps.



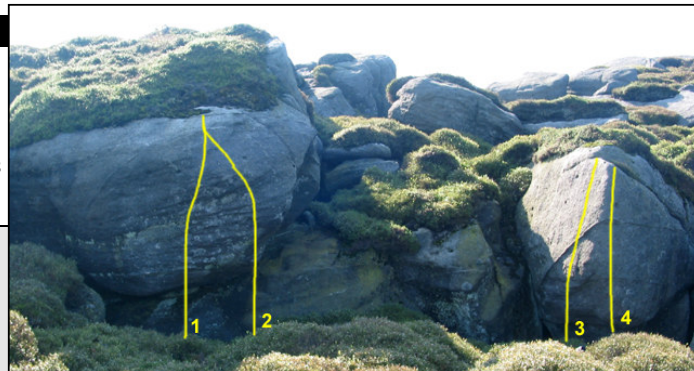
Bottomless Arete

Further left is another seriously steep buttress.

- 1 **V4 Maverick Mick.** The blunt, overhanging right arete of the buttress.
- 2 **V4 Yorker.** Climbs the wall left of the arete. From the sloping break pull directly over the roof.

Pocket Wall

At the left edge of the north face a bulging wall has two more excellent problems. The arete on the boulder to the right is less interesting.



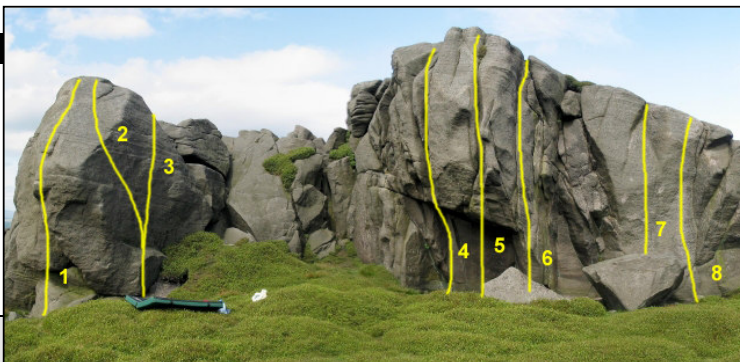
- 1 **V4** Starting with both hands in the low, poor pocket, a tricky rockover gains the next pocket. Use another pocket up and right to finish direct.
- 2 **V4** Start with left hand in the low pocket, right hand on the arete, slap for another pocket and finish direct.
- 3 **V2** The left side of the arete on unpleasantly sharp, pebbly rock.
- 4 **V1** The right side of the arete isn't quite as sharp.

Wall Buttress

This is the obvious rocky tor over the wall from the main crag. On the front the rocks form a small bay facing the main crag - there is some excellent climbing here, much of which is quite high, although the landings are generally grassy and good. A series of smaller buttresses runs along the wall, providing numerous easy problems which aren't documented here. Over the back another two boulders have more good climbing.

Front Bay

This area has numerous cracks and arêtes above generally good landings, although most of the problems are quite high and scary.



- 1 **V8 Mcnab.** The blunt, overhanging nose on the left side of the bay is a classic.
- 2 **V4** The slabby side of the overhanging nose. From a small ledge move left round the edge to a hard (and reachy) finish.
- 3 **V2** The centre of the slab, starting from the small ledge.
- 4 **V1 Pure Gold.** The left hand of two overhanging cracks. Ugh!
- 5 **V5 Petrocelli.** The bottomless crack and arête.
- 6 **V0 Stepping Up.** A more reasonable proposition up the fine flake crack in the vertical wall. High.
- 7 **V6** The shallow groove starting from the block.
- 8 **V0 Groovy Baby.** Layback the fine corner crack.

Pocket Block

This is the free standing boulder over the back of the outcrop from the Front Bay area.



- 1 **V1 Fascinating Pockets.** Link the obvious pockets in the front face.
- 2 **V3** Use small layaways to reach the pocket high up in the wall to the right.
- 3 **V1** Climb the green slab left of the Fascinating Pockets on pebbles and slopers.
- 4 **V0-** The easy layback crack.
- 5 **V2** Use the layback crack to reach the big pocket on the left wall. Finish direct.
- 6 **V1** The slim groove to the left is surprisingly tricky.

Overhang Block

A small undercut boulder with a couple of roof problems.

- 1 **V4** Traverse the lip of the overhang from right to left.
- 2 **V3** Sit start in the centre of the roof, reach up to the lip and traverse left.



Acknowledgements

- This topo includes information previously published in:
- Mark Radtke's topo, On The Edge magazine issue 96, April 2000.
 - "Yorkshire Gritstone", compiled by Dave Musgrove for the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club, 1998.

Feedback

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