

Black Wars Bouldering

High mountain 'board style' bouldering on superb rock with amazing views of the Langdale valley. There are a number of established problems with some un-done projects and loads of traverse and link-up potential. The crag was developed in April/May 2024 by John Hartley, Jade Bowling, Euan Rollinson, Timo Makower, Matt Ivory, David Torres, Rob Lay and Rob Hearnden. Greg Chapman later added another bunch of great problems.

Approach (45 mins)

Black Wars crag lies on the northwest slopes of Pike of Blisco, overlooking the Langdale Valley. The crag can be most easily reached from Wrynose via Red Tarn. From the crossroads (100m past Red Tarn), turn right up towards Pike of Blisco, then almost immediately veer left off the track to contour the hill, passing beneath Landmark Buttress, a clean rib. The track begins to drop down a scree slope; continue around until the main crag comes into view. The bouldering area is located right next to Black Wars crag, an established trad crag. Coordinates: 54°25'49.7"N 3°07'42.4"W or Grid Reference: NY268044.

If you are navigationally challenged, the approach from the Old Dungeon Ghyll in Langdale via Stool End Farm is a good alternative, as you can see the crag the entire way. However, this route takes almost twice as long.

Conditions

The crag faces North so is ideal for a hot summer's day. The crag generally stays dry and has little seepage. Whilst the top outs are naturally fairly clean, it may be worth taking a short length of rope and cams (0.5, 0.75, 1 and 2) to brush them. A wire brush is recommended for cleaning any new lines. The ground can be boggy so a tarp is also useful. 3 pads are required for anything on the main wall and Squeezebox.



Main Wall - Left

The main feature of the crag. 40 degree wall covered with incut edges. Down climb via ledges on the LH end of the wall.

- 1. Iron Deficiency 6B ***
SS. Follow the line of positive edges left and mantle onto the ledge.
E Rollinson 2024
- 2. Counter Press 8A ****
Sit start at an obvious edge and sidepull. Pull up to a LH notch/sidepull and press right to a RH gaston, then gain a thin sidepull above (LH) and make a do-or-die jump for the half-height edge rail. From here finish as per Fray Bentos.
G Chapman 2024
- 3. Fray Bentos 7B *****
SS. Start on sidepull LH and incut RH. Climb the face direct via a good rail and crimps at the top. Top out onto the slab above. The line of the crag. Excellent.
J Hartley 2024
- 4. Icehouse 7B+**
SS. Start at the base of Fray Bentos. Pull on and traverse rightwards, keeping low, to the start of Lemsip Max and gain the initial neighbouring crimps. From here press right (crux) to a line of edges and use these to finish up Kilter Jilter.
G Chapman 2024
- 5. Project 6C?**
The dirty crack line requires some cleaning. Top out.



Main Wall - Right

6. **Lemsip Max 7B+ ****
SS. From a pair of edges, move up to match another pair before a big move to a distant crimp. Top out via a juggy niche. Eliminates holds in the left crack until the topout.
J Hartley 2024
7. **Calpol 6C+ ***
SS. Starting at the base of the right leaning ramp, move up and left using incut edges. Top out as for Lemsip Max.
E Rollinson 2024
8. **Kilter Jilter 6C**
SS. The stepped ramp, finishing at a big jug at the end of the natural line.
G Chapman 2024
9. **Iceberg Slim 7B**
SS. Low start on a V-notch and toothlike hold. Pull on and make a hard move to a slot, then straight up the wall on edges to the crack come ramp and follow this to its end and at a big jug.
G Chapman 2024



Outliers - Squeezebox

This wall can be found about 30m up and left from the main face.

1. Mr Jelly 7B *
SS. The slopy arete from a compressive starting position.
G Chapman 2024

2. Squeezebox 7B+ ***
SS. Centre of the wall via the narrow pillar. Some knee bar knock required. Top out up the rib above to a juggy horn. Down climb possible on the right.
J Hartley 2024

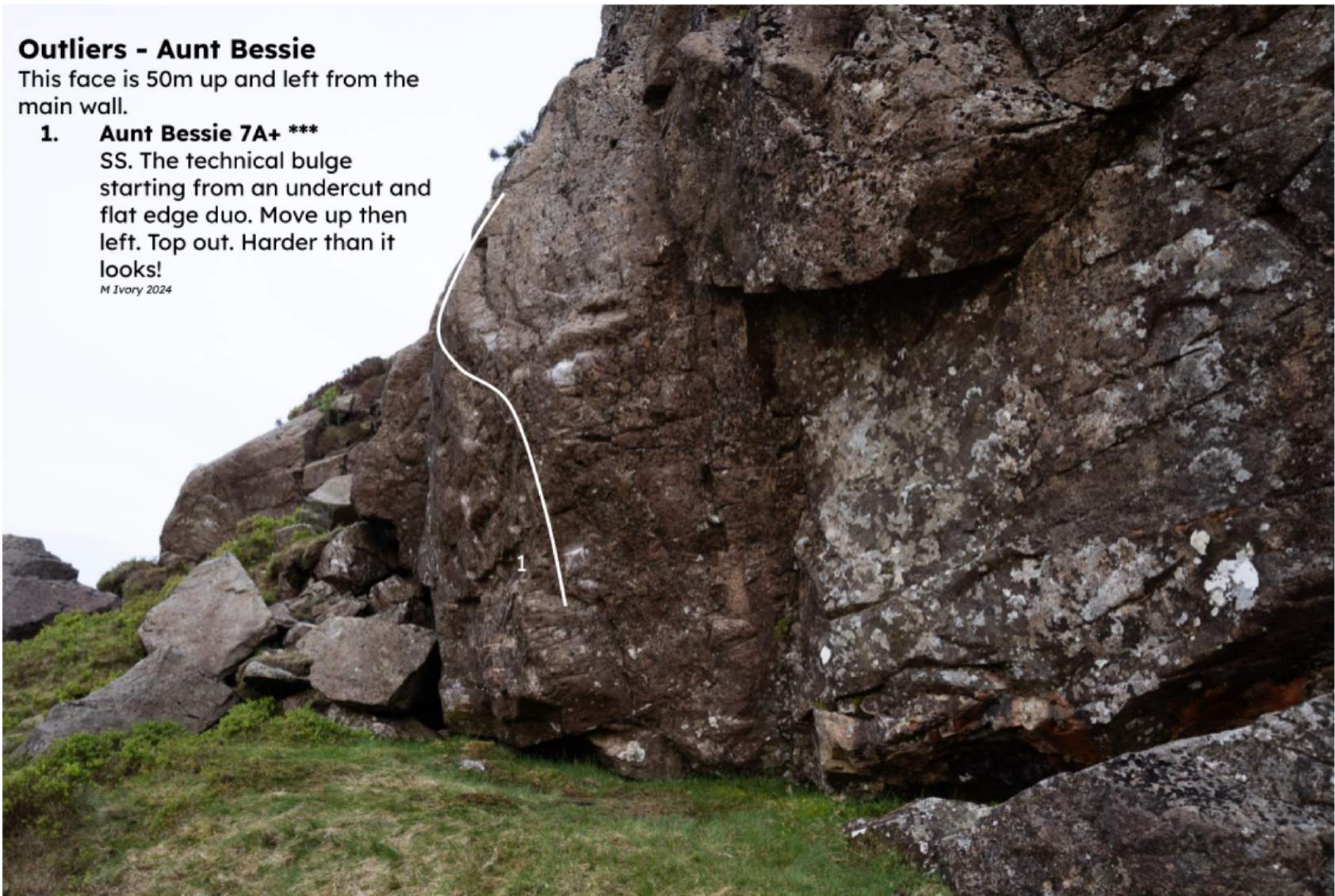


Outliers - Aunt Bessie

This face is 50m up and left from the main wall.

- 1. Aunt Bessie 7A+ *****
SS. The technical bulge starting from an undercut and flat edge duo. Move up then left. Top out. Harder than it looks!

M Ivory 2024



Outliers - Warm Up Wall

This face is 60m up and left from the main wall.

1. **Pocket Arete 6A ***

SS. The left arete via a lovely pocket.

M Ivory 2024

2. **Beyond Hope 6C+ ***

SS. A rising line starting at a jug. Move through A New Hope and mantle over the rounded lip on the right. The block on the right is out and may be loose!

M Ivory 2024

3. **A New Hope 6B+ *****

SS. A gorgeous line starting on two slanting edges. Climb the wall direct via the line of weakness. A must do!

E Rollinson 2024

