

Minor Crag: Shropshire

Harmerhill

The First Quarry

The right hand corner of the gently overhanging wall to the right of *Sling Your Hook* provides:

5a Monkey See, Monkey Do E3 5b 27m **

Climb the wildy overhanging corner crack by means of a combination of bridging, jamming and arm bars. Two peg runners and numerous cams provide protection. Please do not climb this route during the nesting season in order to avoid causing disturbance to any nesting birds.

First Ascent: Stu Bradbury, I Cleford 24/6/00.

Stiperstones

Access: Unfortunately, climbing at Stiperstones is currently banned. The following is taken from the BMC's Regional Access Database (RAD): "*Climbing is not permitted at the Stiperstones due to the biological and geological importance of the site.*"

Use the link below to check for updates:

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/outdoor/rad/rad.asp>

One new route has been reported in *The Devil's Chair Area*, unfortunately the precise location of this route is not clear:

Sea Dreams E2 6a

"The sheer wall between the 5a arete and the 4a crack on the Devil's Chair outcrop. Bad landing."

The following two crags should have been included in the guidebook and I am not sure why I decided to leave them out.....possibly because they are crap!

Cardingmill Valley (Church Stretton)

The routes on this outcrop have been claimed several times since the guidebook first appeared and hopefully this information will now help to clarify the situation.

The original descriptions and details of approach for this outcrop are quoted in full here. Please note that these three routes have not been checked and an appropriate degree of caution may therefore be required.

"An igneous outcrop situated in Cardingmill Valley. From the centre of Church Stretton follow the signs into the Cardingmill valley. Follow the road until it deteriorates into a track which is then followed until a small compact crag is seen on the left and a few yards from the track.

Indirect Route 95 feet VD

1) 50 feet. Start up the centre of the large triangular wall but go left at the first ledge to the foot of a green corner. Climb directly up this and then follow easy rock to the pinnacle belay.

2) 45 feet. Either climb the corner or the wall to the top of the belay and then the wall above to a large ledge below a small overhanging wall which is climbed to the top.

First Ascent: R.Hey, D.Brewer 6/12/69.

The Cauldron 75 feet Severe

1) 45 feet. Start as for *Indirect Route* but keep straight up the wall to the pinnacle belay.

2) 30 feet. Left of the belay is a short steep wall. Climb this on its left side to a ledge and up to the top.

First Ascent: D. Brewer, R.Hey, J.D.Griffiths 6/12/69.

Hey-Maker 90 feet Severe

Start at the right hand edge of the wall (difficult) and climb up to a grass rake. Climb straight over the bulge and step right onto the slab which is followed direct to the top.

First Ascent: R.Hey, J.D.Griffiths 6/12/69."

The Wrekin

Introduction : There are several outcrops of volcanic rock on the south-eastern flanks of The Wrekin at OS Ref: 627 079 sheet 127. There is evidence that these outcrops have been used by climbers for a considerable number of years. Please note that this update only serves as an introduction to the area and the outcrops may warrant more detailed coverage in future editions of the guide. However, this is by no means a substantial venue for climbers and the real value of the area remains for those locals who wish to combine some climbing or

bouldering with a pleasant walk or a family picnic

Approach : Approach as for Fairy Glen Quarry; leave the M54 at junction 7 and head south on the minor road sign-posted for "Little Wenlock and The Wrekin". After one mile there is parking on both sides of the road at a T-junction junction. The horrific Fairy Glen Quarry can be found on the left, a short distance beyond this road junction. From the parking area, follow the track (initially past a small brick building) that winds through the trees, passing a cafe, to eventually reach the trig. points at the top of The Wrekin. Allow approximately 30 minutes for this approach.

The first of the outcrops to be described, the *Needle's Eye Outcrop*, lies approximately 250 metres to the south west of the trig. points, on the left hand side of the main path. The outcrops are described from **Left to Right** (when facing rock):

Needle's Eye Outcrop

Reaching a maximum height of some 15 metres this is the largest and probably the most substantial of the three outcrops. However, the rock is rather shattered and not entirely beyond suspicion. There is also a lack of natural lines and protection will be hard to find for those who wish to lead. One route, of some historical interest, is described here and there is also some limited low level bouldering, especially on the shorter left hand wall.

1. **Needle's Eye** D 15m

Approach from the left hand side of the pinnacle and carefully pick a suitable line on the upper wall to finish.

Have you passed through the Needle's Eye? Well, if not, according to tradition you cannot call yourself a true Salopian. There is also a legend that maidens must not look back when they climb through or they will never be wed.



2

Middle Outcrop

This can be found a short distance to the right and at a slightly lower level. Reaching a maximum height of approximately 10 metres, this outcrop may offer some potential for a number of short, steep routes following slightly more obvious natural lines. There is also some low level bouldering on the steep lower wall on the right hand side of the outcrop.



Right Hand Outcrop

This lies approximately one hundred metres to the right of *Middle Outcrop*. Unfortunately, it is very much more broken and terminates in some short, dirty slabs on the right hand side. It is of very little interest to the climber.

Lower Pinnacle

Directly below the *Right Hand Outcrop* there is a slender buttress which narrows to form a square cut pinnacle at its apex:

2. **Wrekin Pinnacle** D 12m

Climb the centre of the buttress from the lowest point with an awkward move onto the square cut ledge. Descend the short wide crack to escape from the summit.

