

Arch Rock

Access: Open access land: all-year-round access. Groups or large parties should refer to the notes on page 11.

Style: High-calibre amenably graded sport routes only a stone's throw from the road make this the crag with the biggest buzz. Who'd have thought that thirty years back! That also means that some routes have become polished. South-west facing, but is not an ideal winter venue because High Rock blocks out the sun and the routes can seep badly.

Ethic: Mostly sport, but the trad routes are worthwhile too.

Approach: Roadside.

Descents: All the descents from the sport routes are from abseil stations.

Left Wing

1 Three Pounds per Tonne 10m F4 [4B]

Lays claim to the easiest sport route in the Gorge (discounting *Jacob's Ladder*). The rib extreme left.
F.A. Gordon Jenkin, John Harwood 2007

2 Oh Pretty Woman! 15m F5+ [4B]

Somewhat squeezed in. Step up onto a small ledge, clip bolt 1; then off you go (awkwardly).
F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Ed Heslam 2008

3 Lapse in Taste 15m F5+ [5B]

Start up a rib, and then take the wall above.
F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Ed Heslam 2007

4 Mr Ripple 15m F6a [6B] ★

Follow the groove trending leftwards to join the finish and two-bolt belay of the previous route.
F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Ed Heslam 2007

All-year-round Access

Equipment note: many of the bolts on the Right Wing are 10mm, placed before the Cheddar Gorge Climbing Project. They have seen intensive use. Also, some bolts comprise mixed metal construction. You are recommended not to assume the bolts are infallible.

Rock Safety note: please be mindful of anyone beneath you; there is a risk that you could dislodge rock towards the pull-in or people on the slopes below, especially from the left wing.

5 Big Budget Productions 15m F6a [5B]

Climb a pleasant face direct past the bolts, and then finish up a strenuous corner.
F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Ed Heslam 2007

6 Waiting for Gordito 15m E1 5b

Pegs? Yes, and there are two of them (first poor, though) on an eliminate line up the slab. Clip adjacent bolt runners and finish at the two-bolt belay of *Room with a View*.
F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Mark Richards, Yvonne Jones, Tania Almeida, Eva Portillo 2008

7 Room with a View 15m F6a+ [6B] ★

The groove and slightly shattered wall.
F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Ed Heslam 2007

8 Lady Cassidy 15m F6a+ [7B]

Left of a narrow corner, connect awkward sloping holds.
F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Mark Tomlinson, Maddie Geddes-Barton 2007

9 Rush Hour 35m F6a

Let's throw in a traverse too. Climb *Three Pounds per Tonne* to its half-way ledge; then wander right until below the finishing groove of *Big Budget Productions*. Hand-traverse rightwards and continue in this mode to the top of *Lady Cassidy*. Lots of bolts.
F.A. Gordon Jenkin 2008

10 Galena Colada 12m F6c [7B] ★

A tip-toe start that floors many. Avoid it in the heat! Shares its belay with *Lady Cassidy*.
F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Ed Heslam, Dwight Brittan, Keith Marsden 2004

11 Get Kimitri 12m E5 6a ★

Thin and balancy climbing on perfect rock, but neglected. Two-bolt belay.
F.A. Martin Crocker, Gordon Jenkin 1985

12 No Time to Lose 12m F6b [5B] ★

Get your skates on for the horridly polished start; two-bolt belay.
F.A. Rob Kingston 1986; without bolts.

13 No Time at All 15m E5 6a

The exacting groove and wall right of *No Time to Lose* to its two-bolt belay, starting behind a tree.
F.A. Martin Crocker, John Harwood 2004

Right Wing

14 Snug as a Slug on a Jug 12m F7a+ [5B]

Out-of-control slapping on the narrow tower.
F.A. Matt Ward (I), Martin Crocker 1986. The 1986 bolts were camouflaged with grey paint since the National Trust was not in favour of climbing at the time.

15 Screwballed 12m F7a [5B] ★

Earn F7a only if you climb the initial groove and bulge direct.
F.A. Francis Haden, Martin Crocker 1994

16 Keystone Cop Out 15m E4 5c

Serious, but it still clocks up the odd ascent. Take a thin groove to the right-hand end of a narrow arch. Undercut left, hang the rubble above, and retreat from a two-bolt belay near the break.
F.A. Martin Crocker, Gordon Jenkin 1985



**Arch Rock
Left Wing**

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17 Playboys 12m F7b+ [5B]

Entry level to '7b+ land'.

F.A. Martin Crocker 1990

18 All Hands to the Pump

12m F7b [5B]

There are at least two ways to do the crux (without dislocating your shoulder).

F.A. Matt Ward (I), Martin Crocker 1986

19 Stone Town 15m F6b+ [7B]

Engagingly sustained with no real-hard moves. Try to keep *Off the Wall*. (12mm bolts).

F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Max Page 2004

20 Off the Wall 12m F6b [6B]

The original, exciting trad line is long-forgotten. But with bolts has come lashings of polish.

F.A. Rob Kingston, Dave Vousden 1986; without bolts.

21 Breezes 12m F6b+ [4B]

Branch right from *Off the Wall* at its second bolt, and leg it over the middle of the small roof. (12mm bolts).

F.A. Gordon Jenkin, Ed Heslam, Yvonne Jones 2004

22 Cascara Crack 10m S

One of the Gorge's oldest routes, and an enjoyable one of its grade. Climb the flake crack to a two-bolt belay.

F.A. Geoff Sutton, Miss A Clark 1954

23 Hug the Jug 10m F5 [5B]

Trickier than it looks, and harder (F5+) and better if you trend right to finish on the next route.

F.A. Chris Newton-Goverd 2002

24 Don't Fear the Bleater

10m F5+ [5B]

They look like jugs from below, don't they?

F.A. Chris Newton-Goverd 2002

Right: Buffy Furness-Smith on *Hug the Jug* (F5/5+)

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25 As Happy as a Slug in Slime 9m E4 5c

A nery solo, slightly less deadly to lead (there are a few wire placements). Or wait for the Tour Bus and the comforting lap of someone gorgeous to jump into.

F.A. Matt Ward (I) (solo) 1986

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26 Cross-Town Traffic 35m F6b+

Go on: cause chaos on this right-to-left traverse! Follow *Don't Fear the Bleater* to bolt 3; then traverse left and up to the *Hug the Jug* belay. Clip the bolt under the bulge, step down to cross *Breezes*. Now take the deep, often sloping, break leftwards to the belay of *Snug as a Slug on a Jug*.

F.A. Gordon Jenkin 2004





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**Arch Rock
Right Wing**