

New West Climb, Pillar Rock 12 June 2010



Glorious climbing on clean rock, still rough despite the polish of many years of popularity.

Nowhere is this climb too exacting, with plentiful protection and comfortable stances, yet it enjoys a truly Alpine feel. First climbed in 1901 by a party including George and Ashley Abraham.

A fine climb which finds its way through areas of rock usually reserved for harder things. The situations are superb making it one of the best route of this standard in the Lake District.

A superb route. A wonderful stance at the end of the traverse out of the chimney.

Fantastic, the traverse left to the chimney pitch is awesome. Well worth the epic approach hike, let alone a tricky old chimney for fun and games... terrific.

Start about 15m below the large rock embedded in the gully, just above the foot of the Old West route.

1. (20m) Begin easily up clean rock, trending a little to the left. Climb a rib and short corner, then follow steep steps with good holds to an accommodating ledge.
2. (10m) A wide crack (or is it a shallow chimney?) is climbed to a small platform. From here make a short (4m) traverse left to a belay.
3. (17m) Climb a groove, then make a leftwards traverse across slabs to the foot of a chimney. Thread belays.
4. (20m) Depending on ability and girth, the chimney can be climbed with relative elegance by using holds on its outside, or thrutched¹ direct in a more traditional manner. Part way up, the way is barred by an obvious chockstone. Traverse rightwards just below it, climbing over a pile of blocks on the way, to reach a magnificently situated belay.
5. (20m) Complete the climb by ascending the slab immediately above the stance, and finish on the summit of High Man

¹ Thrutch: making a grunting noise and doing a