

Fairlop Waters

Boulder Park



BMC Participation Statement.

The BMC recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

MAYOR OF LONDON

London Borough of
Redbridge 

Boulder Park

Fairlop Waters
Forest Road
Barkingside
ESSEX
IG6 3HN

History

The project was conceived by the London Borough of Redbridge in 2009, and funded by the London Mayor's Priority Parks Programme. Rockworks was selected to build the boulders which were completed in June 2010.

Situation and Character

The boulders are situated in a leafy glade close to the main lake at Fairlop Waters. They offer sunny aspects and welcome shade throughout the day in a very pleasant location.

Access and Approaches

Fairlop Waters can be easily accessed from Forest Road, and is only a 5 minute walk from Fairlop Tube Station.

The Climbs

The Boulder Park consists of nine boulders of varying heights and shapes to cater for all standards from novice to expert. They are all designed for solo climbing. The easiest climbs will be found on boulders G,H & I. The higher boulders A,B,C & E all have thread belays for climbers who would like to use a top rope. A detailed explanation of bouldering grades can be found on page 12.



A. The Magical Mushroom Boulder

This is the smallest of the first three boulders. One top rope thread is provided.

1. Easy

The north face can be climbed anywhere although it is slightly easier on the left.

2. Font 6a

Start low under the roof, finish with an awkward mantelshelf.

3. Font 4+

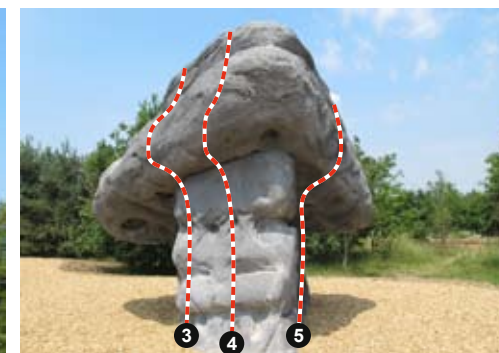
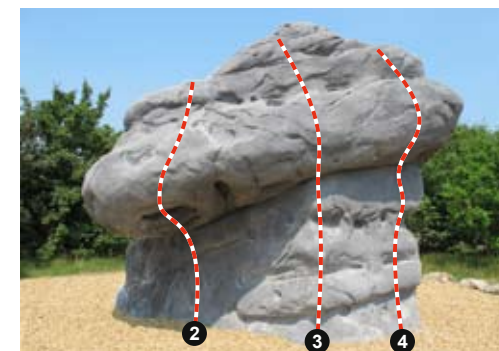
Pull through the narrowest part of the bulge.

4. Font 4+

Climb the south face moving slightly left at the top.

5. Font 5

Climb the middle of the east face, power over the roof.





B. The Prominent Prow

This is the middle of the first three boulders. Two top rope threads are provided.

1. Easy

The sunny south east face provides the easiest line.

2. Font 4+

Tackle the splendid off width crack.

3. Font 4

Climb the steep face on positive holds.

4. Font 5

Powerful climbing up the left side of the prow.

5. Font 5+

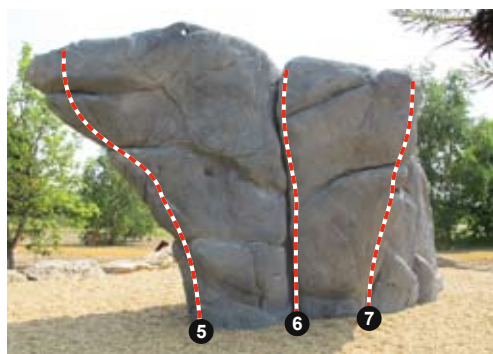
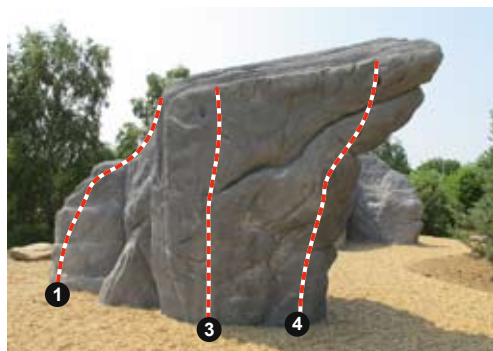
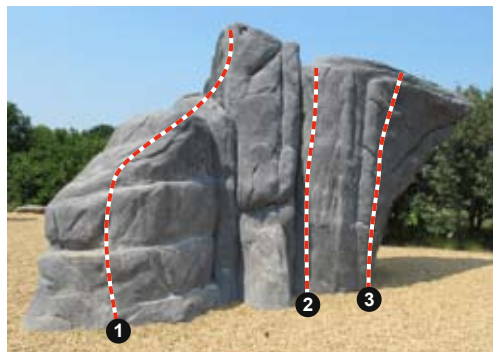
Powerful climbing up the right side of the prow.

6. Font 4+

Battle up the awkward hand jamming crack.

7. Font 3+

Weird knee bars can take the sting out of this tricky groove.



C. The Arches

This is the largest of the first three boulders with two huge arches. Two top rope threads are provided.

1. Easy

The sunny south east face provides the easiest line.

2. Font 3

Climb the corner.

3. Font 2

Climb the rounded slabby prow.

4. Font 3

Climb the wall just left of the groove.

5. Font 4

The overhanging arête.

6. Font 2

Stride up the splendid north west face.

7. Font 5

The rounded arête.

8. Font 3+

Climb up past the jammed block.

9. Font 2+

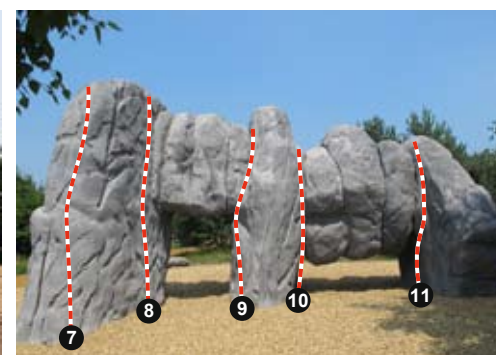
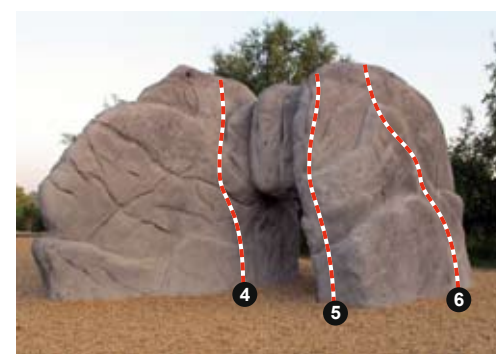
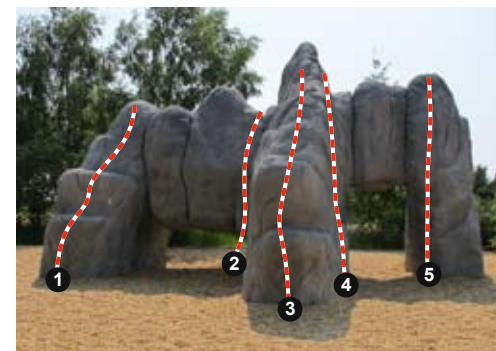
Up the central pillar.

10. Font 4+

More powerful than it looks!

11. Font 4

Good technique is required here!



D. Dumbo the Elephant

This isolated block is situated a short walk down the path. From some angles it bears a striking resemblance to the worlds largest land mammal who has been part buried in the gravel!

1. Easy

The Trunk Route. The slabby north east face provides the easiest line.

2. Font 2

Layback up the groove on the north face.

3. Font 3

Climb the centre of the steep north face to the notch.

4. Font 5+

Powerful climbing up the overhang.

5. Font 2

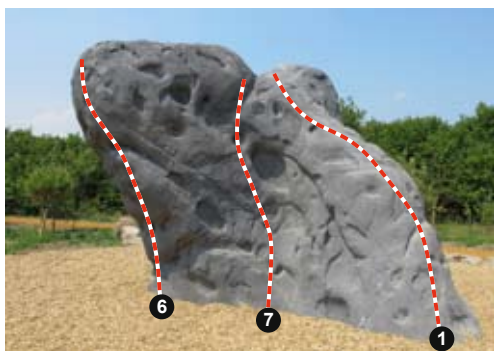
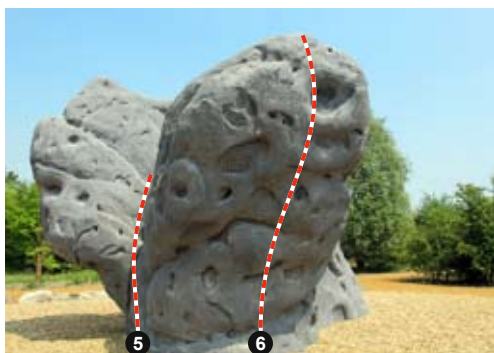
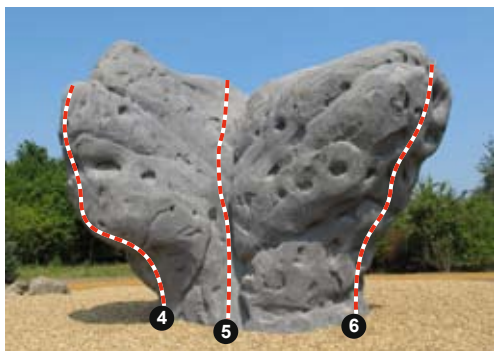
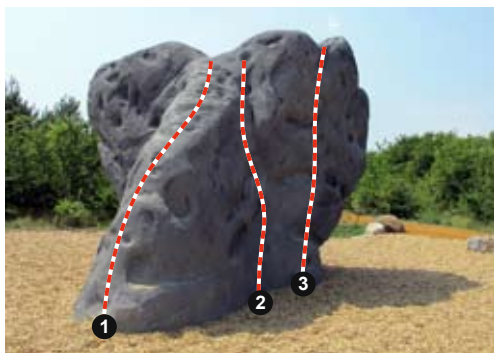
The central groove.

6. Font 3+

Powerful climbing up the overhang.

7. Font 2

Steady climbing up the final groove.

**E. The Enormous Roofed Block**

The huge roofs are a prominent feature of this enormous boulder. One top rope thread provided.

1. Easy

The north west face provides the easiest line.

2. Font 2

Climb the corner.

3. Font 4

The steep face finishing at the thread.

4. Font 2

Climb direct to the notch.

5. Font 3

Interesting climbing leads up the wall.

6. Font 4

The rounded arête.

7. Font 3+

The steep wall on surprisingly good holds.

8. Font 4

Finish up the hanging corner.

9. Font 5+

Powerful climbing over the capstone at its widest point.

10. Font 5+

Cross the capstone using the obvious hueco (weird hole).

11. Font 5+

Tackle the roof on the right.

12. Font 5

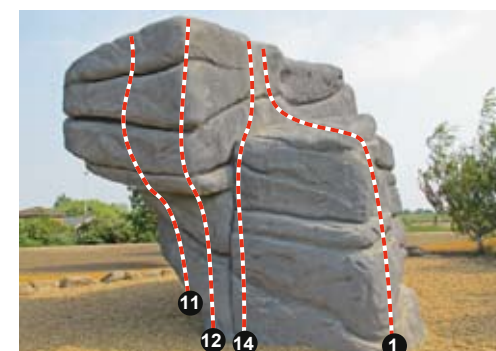
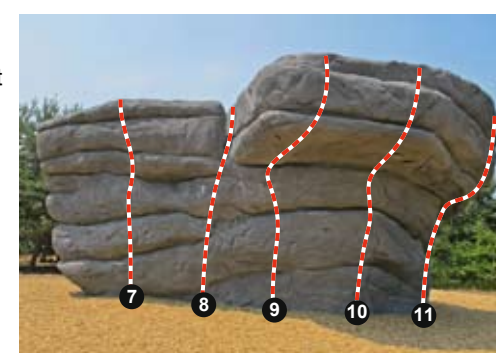
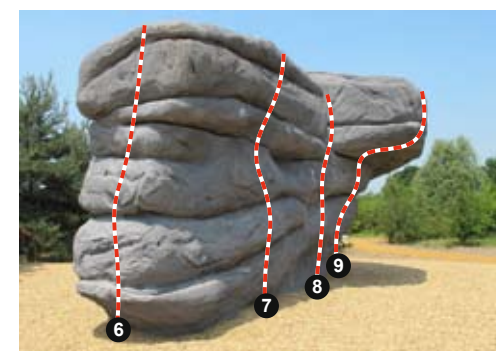
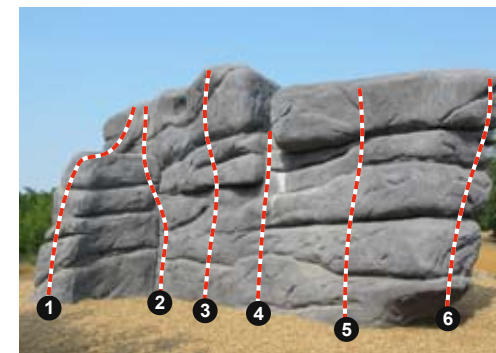
The overhanging arête on perfect holds.

13. Font 6a

Climb 12 then with your hands on the the first lip on the roof traverse from right to left and finish over the roof as for 9, or (easier) continue to finish up the hanging corner as for 8.

14. Font 2

The short corner soon leads to the ledge.



F. Fairy's Cave

This small block has a hidden steep face.

1. Easy

The slabby north east face provides the easiest line.

2. Font 6a

The severely overhanging face is thankfully short!

3. Font 2

Climb the arête.

4. Font 1

Climb the gentle face on good holds.

5. Font 2

The narrow prow.

6. Font 2+

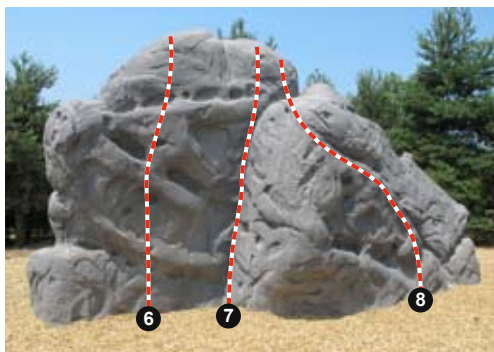
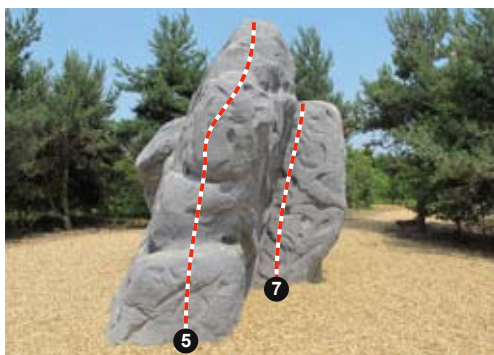
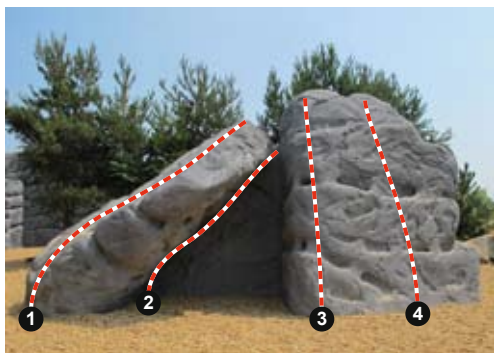
Power up the steep face on good holds.

7. Font 2

The short corner.

8. Font 2

An enjoyable line sweeping across the face.

**G. Twin Peaks**

The mountain like block with twin tops.

1. Easy

The west face provides the easiest line.

2. Easy

Stride up the gentle ramp.

3. Font 3+

Pull over the roof to a testing mantelshelf finish.

4. Font 4

Harder than it looks!

5. Font 2+

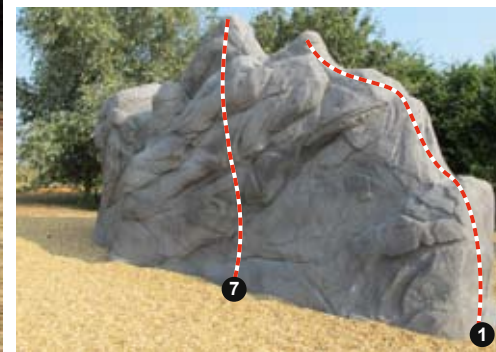
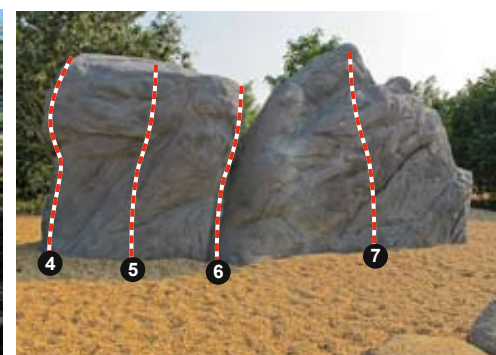
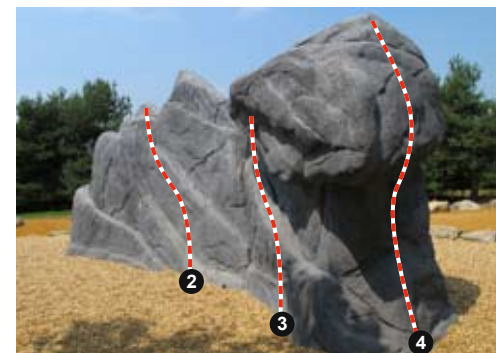
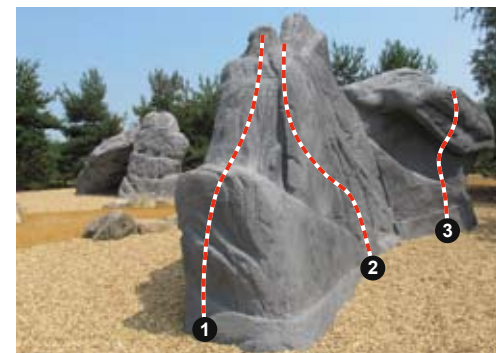
Fossil wall.

6. Font 2

Awkward moves up the narrow slot.

7. Font 2

The positive crimpy holds are a joy to pull on!





H. The Petit Block

This cute block is the smallest and friendliest boulder.

1. Easy

The east face provides the easiest line.

2. Font 1+

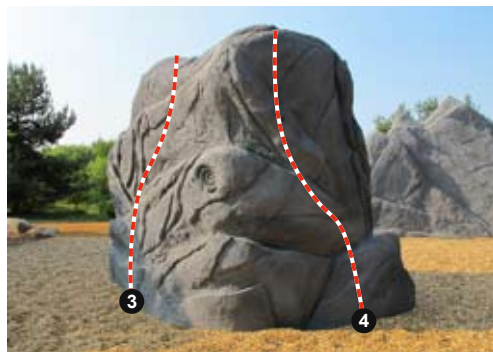
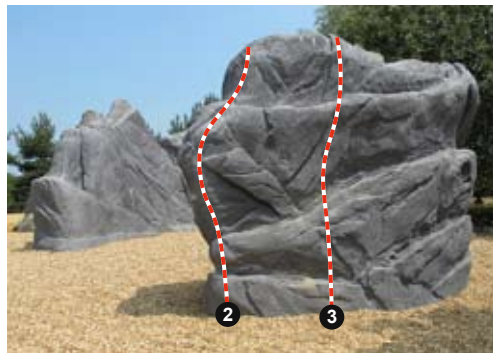
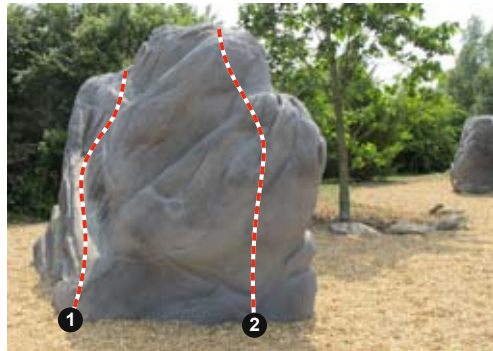
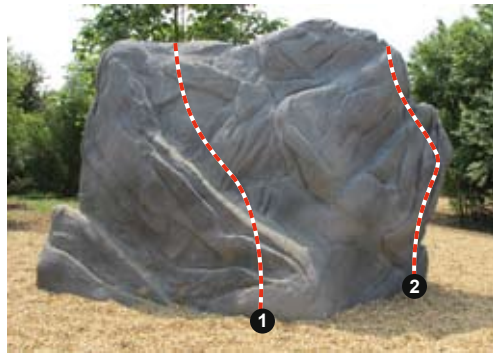
The steep prow on good holds.

3. Font 1

The centre of the west face.

4. Font 1+

Climb the south face.



I. The Final Boulder

The final boulder is a long and thin affair.

1. Easy

The west face provides the easiest line.

2. Font 1+

The twin cracks past the bulge.

3. Font 2

The awkward chimney.

4. Font 4

Climb the superb shallow groove.

5. Font 1

Steady climbing up the short wall.

6. Easy

The east face provides an alternative descent route.

7. Font 1

Pleasant climbing up the short wall.

8. Font 1+

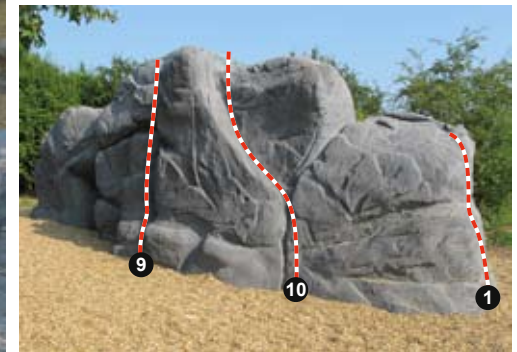
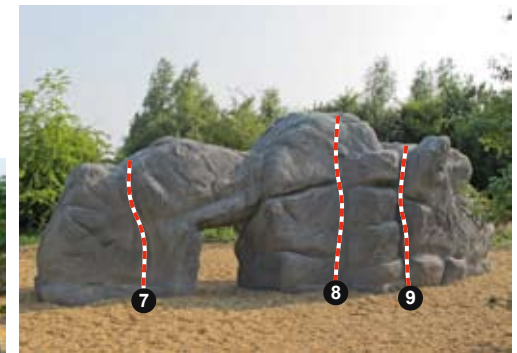
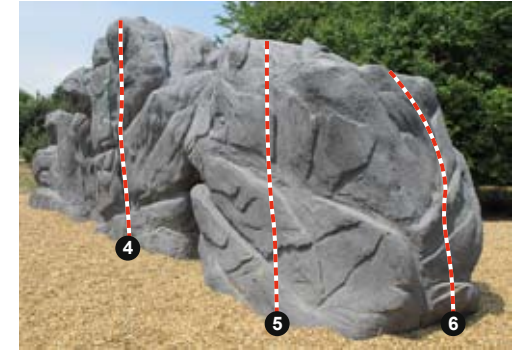
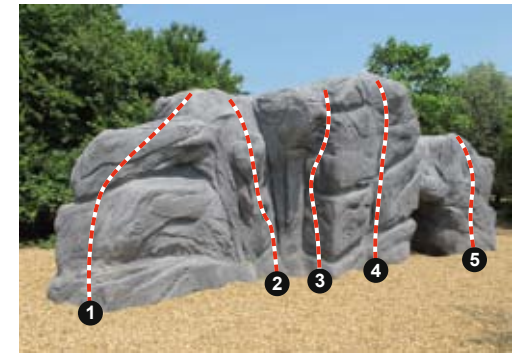
Good climbing directly to the summit.

9. Font 1+

Steady climbing up the corner/groove.

10. Font 1

Sweep up the gentle ramp.



BOULDERING GRADES

It is true to say that there are only two grades, the problems you can do and the problems you can't. To the keen boulderer however, it soon becomes apparent that this can be sub divided into the problems you can do but your mate can't and vice versa! Grading boulder problems is almost an impossible task and this table is an attempt to compare the most popular systems. Boulder grading tends to measure the overall difficulty of a problem. A problem with one short hard move may get 7a and one with a sustained sequence of easier moves may also get 7a. A highball will normally get an extra half grade.

British Technical Grades

These work well for routes but have become too vague for serious bouldering.

Hueco Grade

Developed in Hueco Tanks in Texas, USA by John Sherman ('Verm' to his mates, hence the V). Principally used in the USA. It is popular with definitive UK climbing guidebooks by the BMC and Rockfax.

Font Grade

This system, which originated in the forests of Fontainebleau in France, is becoming increasingly popular with UK boulderers. It is now the grading system of choice in the majority of the UK bouldering guidebooks and is the system that has been used here.

Grading is always such a controversial issue!

**Grade Table**

Font	UK Technical Grade	Hueco
2+	4a	
3	4b	
3+	4c	VB
4	5a	V0
4+	5b	V1
5	5c	V2
5+	5c	V2
6a		
6a+	6a	V3
6b		V4
6b+		V4
6c	6b	V5
6c+		
7a		V6
7a+		V7
7b	6c	V8
7b+		V9
7c		V10
7c+	7a	V11
8a		V12
8a+		V12
8b	7b	V13
8b		V14

THE NEXT STEP

If you have enjoyed climbing here and would like to develop your climbing further, more information about climbing can be found from **The British Mountaineering Council** (www.thebmc.co.uk).

Other useful sources:

Climbing Books

Rock Climbing Essential Skills and Techniques by Libby Peters
Rockfax Climbing guides and Performance books (www.rockfax.com)

Monthly Climbing Magazines:

Climber (www.climber.co.uk)
Climb (www.climbmagazine.com)

Coaching:

Neil Gresham (www.climbingmasterclass.com)
Adrian Berry (www.positiveclimbing.com)
Dave MacLeod (www.davemacleod.com)

Coaching DVD's

Masterclass Parts 1+2 by Neil Gresham, Crux Films, 2005

Websites:

The BMC (www.thebmc.co.uk)
UK Climbing (www.ukclimbing.com)



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