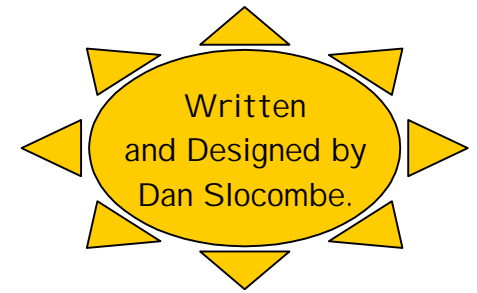


Bournbrook Wall Bouldering Guide



Size 18 cams required. And a size 10 Tricam.



A ferociously exciting spectacle into the spectacular

- Seb Grevious

Not very good, really

- The Author

Ah, who gives a shit?

- The Author's housemate

This is not Seb Grieve. Any similarity is purely coincidental. Ahem.

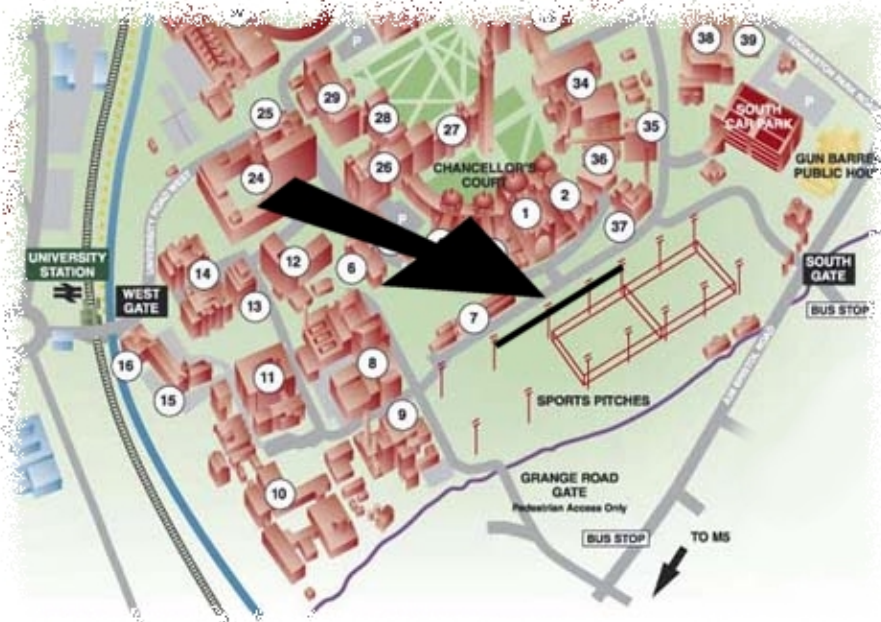


Background

The Bournbrook Wall represents the elite in British bouldering. Well, no, actually, not really.

However, it has been used over the years by the Stoats - the Birmingham University Mountaineering Club. The wall provides a cheap alternative to climbing indoors, and since the closure of the Munro Centre's wall is the only place to climb on the university campus. Annoyingly, the wall gets wet when it rains. Access to the wall is unlimited (apart from during Moseley matches) and there are no nesting restrictions.

Finding the Wall



The Bournbrook Wall is directly behind the hockey pitches, and is most easily accessed from the Grange Road Gate path. In the map above the Big Black Arrow, surprisingly enough, points to the wall.

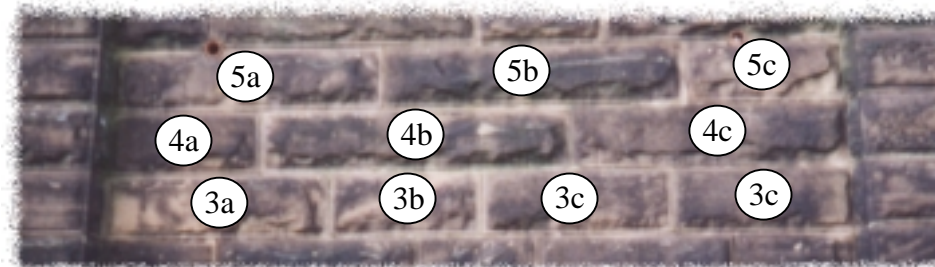
Grading

I decided to use British technical grades in the guide, as they are generally understood by most members of the club. Besides, not even Bleausards know how to use the Font system, and the Hueco (Vermin) system is American, and therefore of no use.

Expect all grades within this guide to be inaccurate - grading at best is subjective and in my case just plain wrong.

Using the Guide

Problems are generally described in terms of the blocks used. The numbering format is shown below.



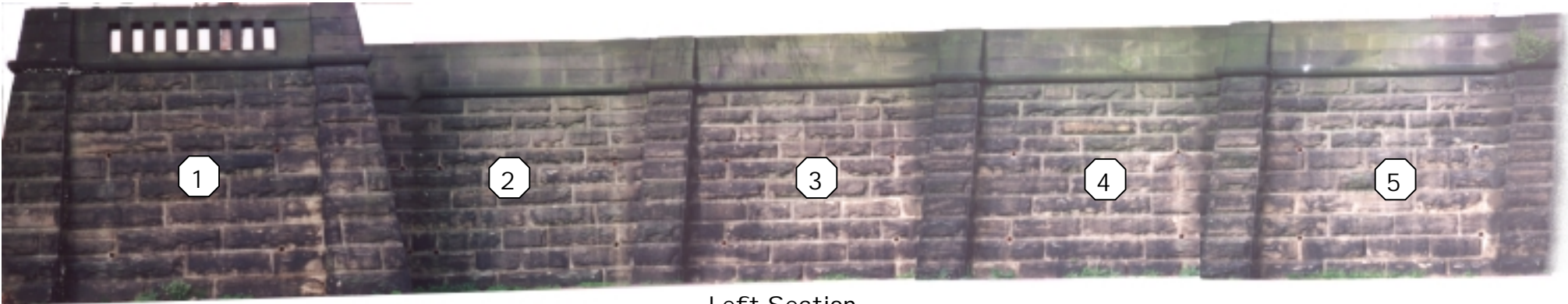
Rows of blocks going up the wall are labelled, in ascending order, from 1 to 10. Across the wall, the blocks are labelled alphabetically. These block descriptions are used (along with the position of the hold on the block, where relevant) to describe the problem. Where only a number is used the entire row of blocks is allowed for the problem.

Traverses are marked by horizontal arrows. Where the traverse is reversed as well the starting side is given by a dot: i.e. $\leftrightarrow\bullet$ means start on the right, traverse left, then traverse back rightwards, while \Rightarrow would just mean traverse rightwards.

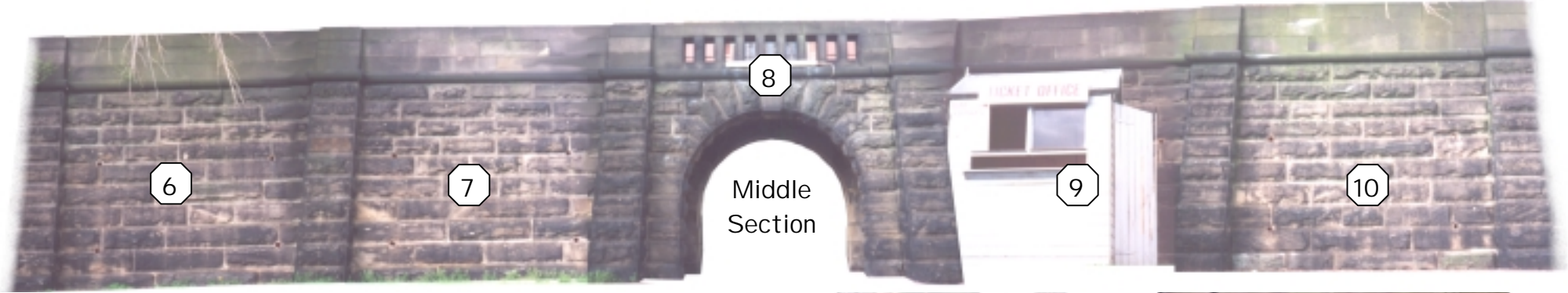
Note: Vertical climbs finish on the rounded concrete.



The Bournbrook Wall



Left Section



Middle Section



Right Section

Note: Most routes within this guide do not use the drain pipes Or the hold directly beneath them ('cus that'd be tooo easy...)

Note: In these images the wall looks skewed and the perspective is wrong. This is because these images were made by joining numerous photographs, and because I'm too lazy to do it properly it looks weird. However, if you half close your left eye and try and peer down your nose it almost looks right. Descriptions of the full-length traverses are given later on in this guide.



Panel 1



Panel 2



Traverses:

⇒ 1 for feet, 4 for hands. Harder for the tall. 6a

Straight-ups:

↑↑ RHS of wall on undercuts, starting on level 5. 6a

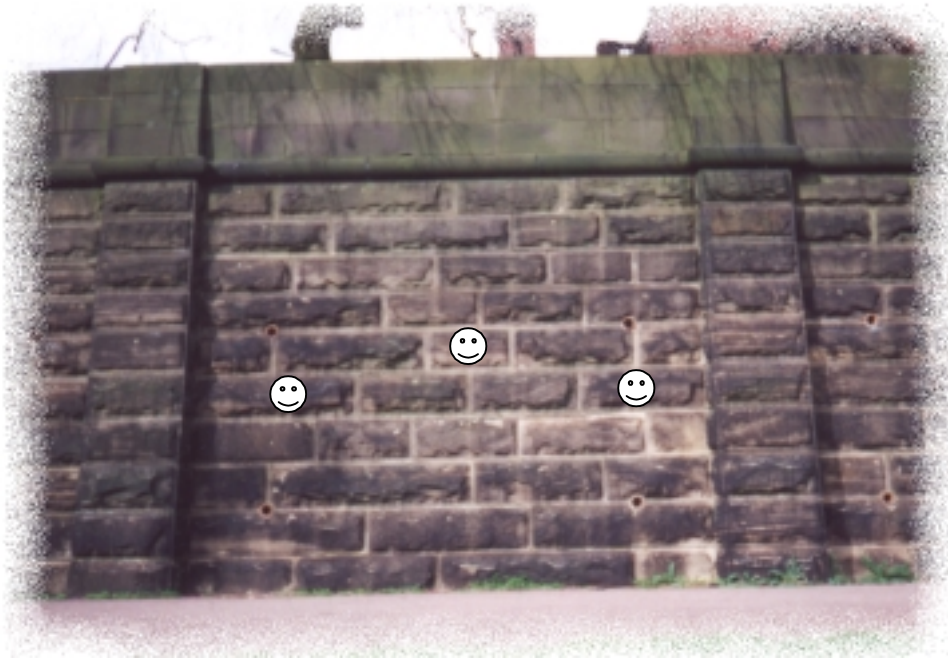
Traverses:

⇐ / 1 for feet, 6 for hands, starting on right-hand pillar. Crimpy. May be reversed for enhanced pleasure, without using any of left-hand pillar. 6a/b

Straight-ups:



Panel 3



Panel 4



Traverses:

Straight-ups:

- ↑↑ Dyno from crimps on 5d up to crimp on 9d (any feet). 5b/c
- ↑↑ Crouching start using pinch on LHS of 4b, up to sloper above the dot in the middle of 7a, then to top using sidepull on right of 9a 5b

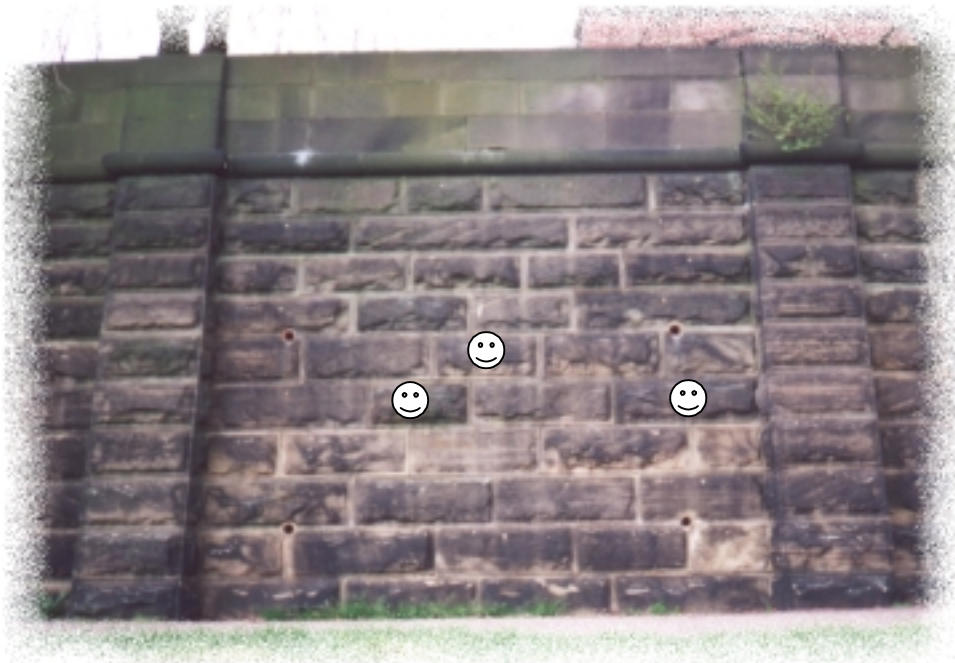
Traverses:

Straight-ups:

- ↑↑ Left-hand pillar, using sidepull at right of 5, and 9, for hands; 3 and 5 for feet.



Panel 5

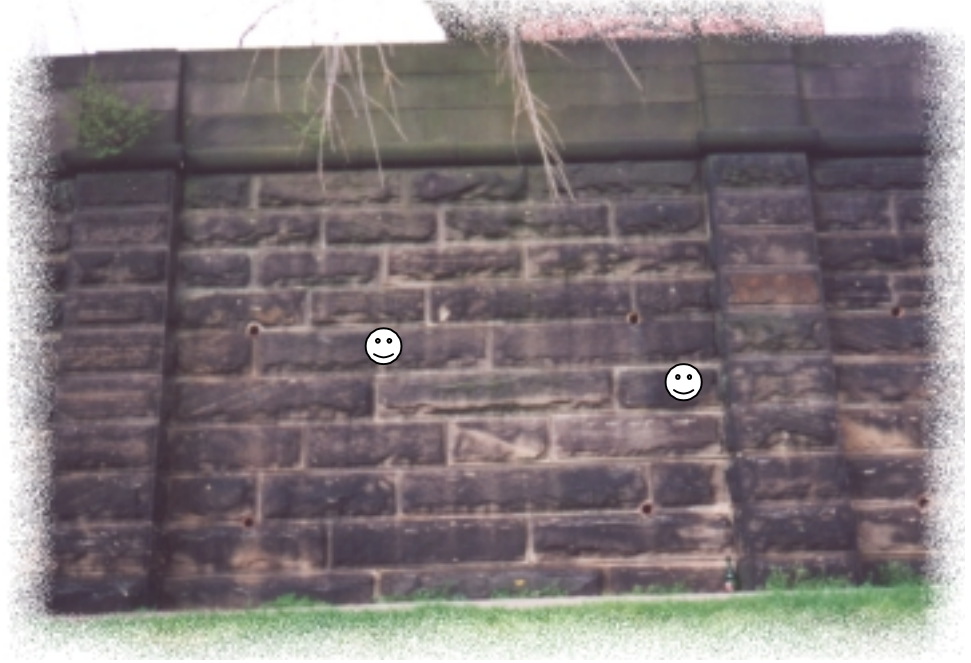


Traverses:

Straight-ups:

↑ Superb fist jamming up right-hand drains, with bum start; any feet. Watch out for rats. (Cheers, Matt) ?!?

Panel 6



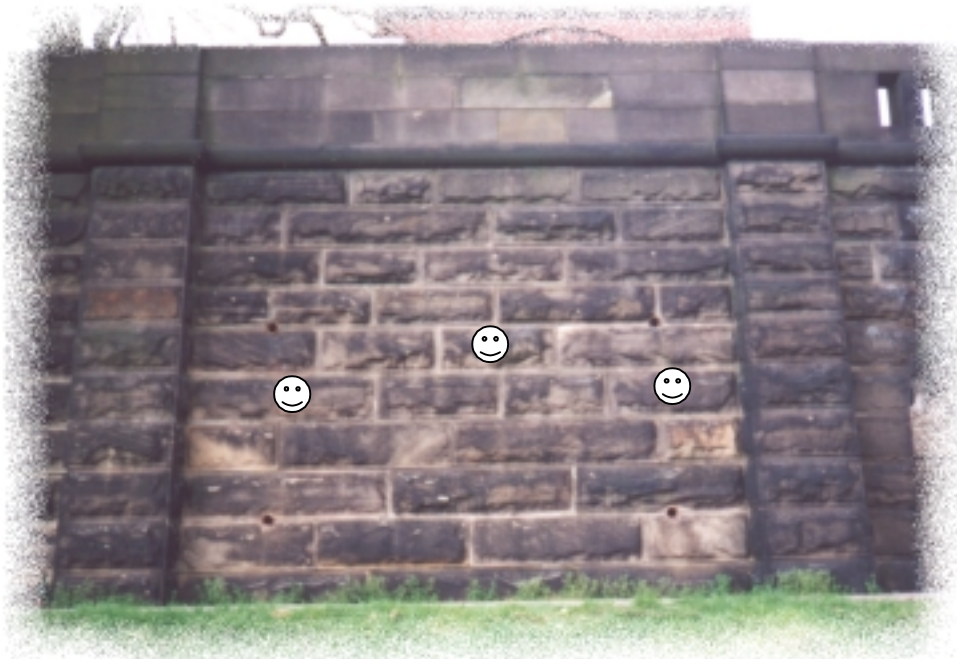
Traverses:

⇒ Start matching on 5a's sloping sidepull, then to small crimp 10cm from left of 6b, to further right crimp on 6b, first crimp on left of 6c, then (breath...) tiny crimp 30cm from right edge of 6c. 5c/6a

Straight-ups:



Panel 7



Traverses:

Straight-ups:

Panel 8



Traverses:



Up and over, using back (usually wet...) and front of arch for hands, any feet. 5c/6a?



Up and over, using only the front of arch for hands, any feet. 6a?

Straight-ups:



Panel 9



Panel 10



Traverses:

Not with these fucking cabins in the way...

Straight-ups:

Yeah, straight up the *#@&~\$% #!&\$E &*@%

Traverses:

Straight-ups:



Panel 11



Panel 12



Traverses:
 ⇐/ Starting on right-hand pillar, using 1 for feet, 5 for hands. May then be reversed without using left-hand pillar. A git. 6a
 ⇐•

Straight-ups:

Traverses:
 Straight-ups:



Panel 13



Panel 14



Traverses:

- ↔• Start on right-hand pillar, using 1 for feet and 6 for hands. Then reverse without using left-hand pillar.

5c

Straight-ups:

Traverses:

Straight-ups:





Traverses:

Straight-ups:

There are a number of traverses that take in large sections of the wall. These are described below. Some stamina fiend may wish to link them via the arch.

- ⇐ Panels 7→1, using any panels for feet and hands, and also drainpipes too. Some hard moves. 5a
- ⇐ Panels 7→1, using 1 for feet, 5 for hands. Couple of hard moves, but mostly OK. 5b
- ⇐ Panels 7→1, using 1 for feet, 6 for hands. Panel 2 very hard, the rest -5b. 6a/b
- ⇐ Panels 15→9, using any panels for feet and hands, and also drainpipes too. 5a
- ⇐ Panels 15→9, using 1 for feet, 5 for hands. Crux on panel 11. 6a
- ⇐ Panels 15→9, using 1 for feet, 6 for hands. Okish. 5c
- ⇐ Panels 7→1, using 1 for feet, smiley faced panels and pillar sides on level 5 for hands. Fairly strenuous. 6a/b
- ⚡ Panels 15→9, using 1 for feet, lightning bolted panels and pillar sides on level 5 for hands. Tricky, with some reachy moves. 6a

OK, folks, that's all. If you have any new problems/suggestions either see me around or post something on the website. If anyone has anything nasty to say: please don't. I'm of a nervous disposition and susceptible to binge drinking. On that note, if you want to buy me a drink I'll be in the gutter most evenings.

