

Egerton Quarry

Trad: 246 (D to E8)

Aspect: All directions **Sunshine:** All day **Grid ref:** SD 719143

Conditions: Sheltered, Jurassic, mostly clean, ferny in summer

Best for: Steep quarry classics across the grades **Approach:** 10 minutes

A big quarry with great walls on many of its sides. There are loads of strong lines and fine routes to be had. It has a particular feel about it and the land on the quarry floor almost feels like a prehistoric nature reserve. Think hooting owls and mysterious water mammals. It's not huge so it is easy to visit lots of areas, although it is possible to get lost on these ventures. Some of the climbs here are among the best in Lancashire. The rock is usually very good, although parts of it can become green or overgrown.

Since the previous guidebook, there has been an explosion of new routes and although most have not yet had many ascents, some are certainly destined to become classics.

The Climbing

Big leads on cracks, corners, walls and arêtes. Grades go from VD to E8 but the quality really kicks in at VS and above. There is a fantastic bunch of E5 arêtes. Generally, the routes have a good bit of height about them.

Conditions and Aspect

As a result of the quarry's layout, there are always some climbs to be found in the sunshine, if there is any, though the best area, Wood Butress, has a shady aspect. In summer, some of the areas can become very ferny underfoot making access a pain. Wood Butress, The Prow and the Red Wall to Renaissance areas, with many of the crag's best routes, are always accessible. The pool by The Prow means that the area can be midgy in summer.

Bouldering

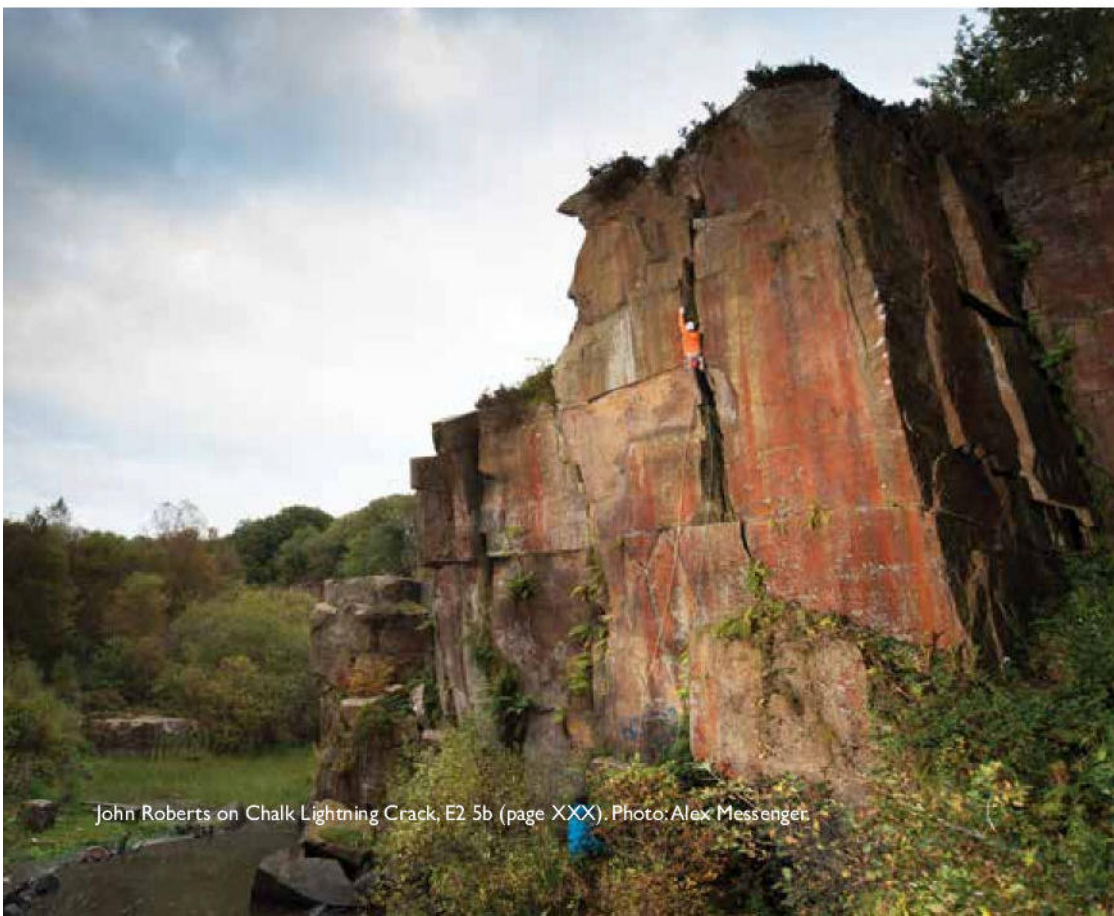
The Lancashire Bouldering guide lists 25 problems from Font 3 to Font 7B+. The majority of these are around the Bridge Area where the vertical quarried walls deliver some technical challenges.

Access

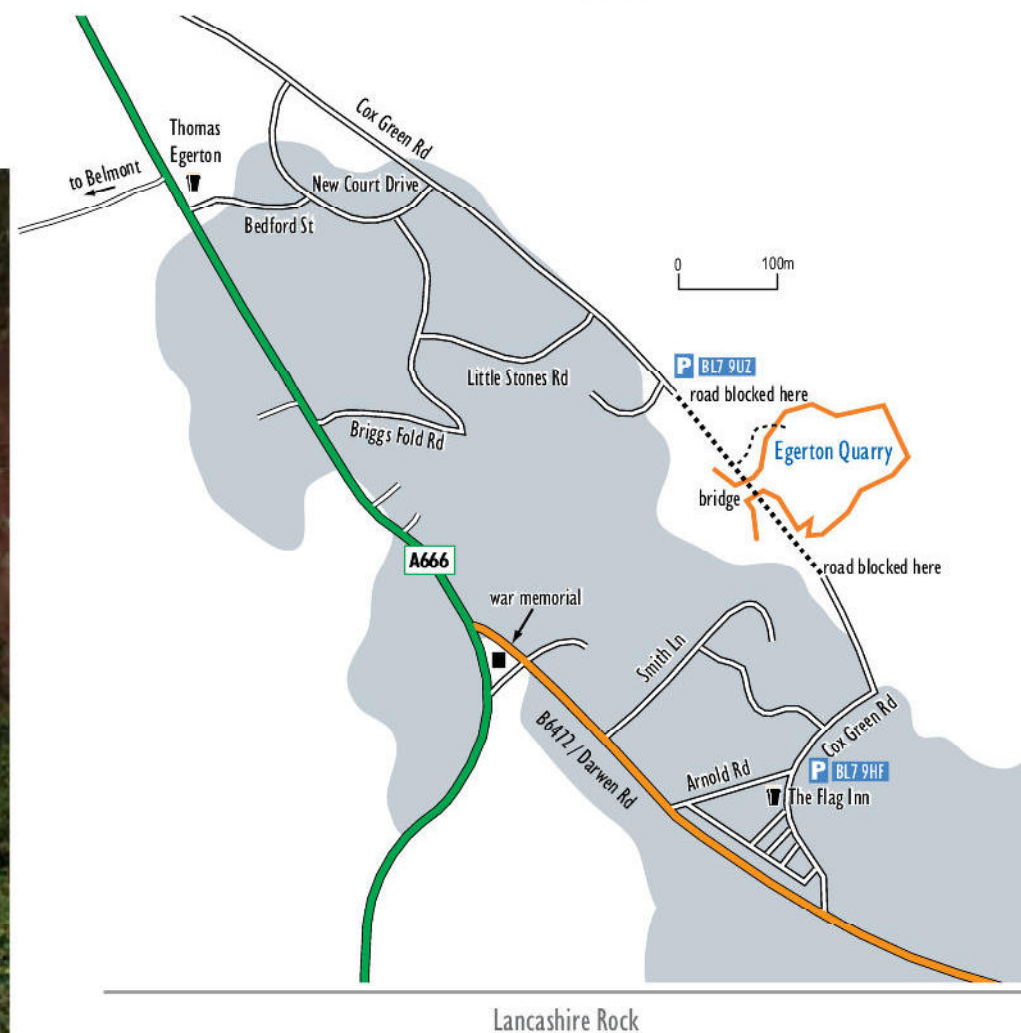
The quarry lies on Open Access land and (up to the bridge) is owned by David Robinson, who has a positive attitude towards climbing. David is happy for climbers to climb at their own risk in the quarry. However, climbers must not climb past the fence in the area previously known as Graftiti Wall.

Parking and Approach

The crag is approached from near the war memorial at the junction of the A666 Blackburn Road and the B6472 Darwen Rd. Follow the map to park at either end of the blocked section of Cox Green Rd. The blocked section forms a footpath that crosses a bridge. Just north of the bridge there is a quarry track, blocked by boulders. Follow this track.



John Roberts on Chalk Lightning Crack, E2 5b (page XXX). Photo: Alex Messenger



Lancashire Rock