

Skywalk, Direct Finish

FA/FFA (pitch 6 and 7): Paul Taylor, Tobias Link, August 2022

An old school route with good climbing and good rock. The protection is sometimes sparse and not always bomber, so a competent leader (and second) who is able to keep things together several meters above the last piece of gear is mandatory.

Approach: Scramble up the scree cone on the right side of Nanny Goat (near Chocolate Frog). Head towards the right side of the slabs underneath the obvious right trending roof system that the route follows for the first three pitches. Some scrambling is required to reach the start (cairn by small trees).

Gear: Single rack from 00 Metolious to #3 BD, six runners and 4 sport draws, 60m double ropes to avoid rope drag on pitch 2 and for rappelling the route.

1. Pitch (5.3, 25m): Head up tending left following a shallow, right facing runnel towards a grassy ledge visible from the bottom (mostly a walk-up slab). Once at the ledge keep climbing for another 2 or 3 m (5.3) on good rock to another ledge with a groove on its left side and a two-bolt belay.

2. Pitch (5.8, 40m): Climb up the crack directly above the belay for 2 m and traverse almost horizontally left for 5m and climb up another step for another 2 m. From there traverse horizontally left again passing a bolt (extent to avoid rope drag) and towards a groove with a crack in the back. Step down a bit and make an awkward move into the groove and climb up to a slab divided by a crack above. Keep climbing up the crack, then move up and left over a steeper section towards the main dihedral and a blank wall a few meters up (two-bolt belay).

3. Pitch (5.8, 40m): Climb straight up from the belay for about 3 meters, passing a piton and gaining a right leaning ramp. Follow this for about 20 m underneath a roof passing a few pitons. Now the line of least resistance is going right, traversing almost horizontally for another 20 m, passing more pitons, to a station with two ring bolts (never climb over a roof on this pitch). From here it is a 55 m rappel to scrambling terrain below. This pitch is "full value" for the grade and quite exposed as well. As the gear placements are mostly at least 4 to 5 m apart, a solid leader and second are required.

4. Pitch (10a, 35m): Traverse horizontally right, passing a bolt on the way until you end up under a steep wall with two bolts. Climb straight up to an alcove underneath a roof (piton) and then continue up and right for 3 m to another alcove underneath a roof with another bolt. Pull over the roof (crux) and keep following the left leaning corner (bolt) for another 8 m to a station with two ring bolts.

5. Pitch (5.10a, 35m): Climb up and right towards a corner with yellow rock (might have been the block described in Bow Valley Rock?), climb it (steep, a bit loose) and head up and slightly right on the slab above until you hit a steeper section, (this is where the new exit variation diverts from the original route, see Chris Perry's Bow Valley Rock guide book for directions). To follow the new finish, climb straight up an obvious weakness (bolt) to a grassy ledge with two ring bolts.

6. Pitch (5.8, 35m): Climb directly up from the station. On the slab trend up and right underneath some steeper rock (bolt) until reaching an obvious weakness (tree above on the left). Climb up this weakness and a groove for another 8 m passing the tree to a station with two rap rings.

7. Pitch (5.9, 35m): Climb the buttress to the left of the belay station (bolt high up) until traversing right above the small roof located 20m directly above the belay. Keep going up a groove to a ledge with a double ring station to the left (around the corner).

Decent: Either keep traversing right and scramble to the top and walk off or rap the route. You cannot rap the route with a 60m rope, as the rap from the top of pitch 3 to the base is 55m (It is impossible to rap from the top of pitch 3 to the top of pitch 2!!!) However, all other rappels can be done with a 60 m single rope. Most rappels require some traversing and some of them are full 30m, so tie a knot into the ends of your rope.