

# Pike Stones

Crag: SE09825526 / 53.993289, -1.8517075

Parking: 53.986054, -1.846424

Jutting sharply from the low ridge of peat between Hey Shaw Slack and Pickles Gill Beck, are a series of clean gritstone blocks - two of which give worthwhile climbing. Climbing here is limited but is of good quality, and will give a pleasant session before moving elsewhere. This 'hit and run' approach is facilitated by the crag's proximity to the road and crags such as Brandrith, Dovestones and Whinhaugh. Snatch and grab visits will best benefit the Font 7A operator who can warm up on the easier climbs before snatching one of the Unknown Stones' most prized ticks - Prime Suspect. Unless otherwise stated, problems were recorded between July and August 2014 by Will Hunt.

**Conditions:** The crag doesn't take any drainage and dries relatively quickly. Expect to bear the brunt of the prevailing westerlies and so reasonable conditions can be had in the warmer months, particularly in the morning.

**Parking and approach info:** The tiny hamlet of Summerscales lies just off the A59 between Skipton and Harrogate. **From Skipton:** Pass the Bolton Abbey turn-off roundabout and continue up the hill for 2 miles. The hamlet is on the left just after a large layby. **From Harrogate:** Continue for 4.5 miles after Blubberhouses and turn into Summerscales just after the "Beamsley Hill - Long descent for 2 miles" road sign. Park sensitively on this crescent shaped road and take the track at its apex. Follow this track, passing several gates, until you come to a square pad of concrete; turn left at the pad and wind up the low ridge. Just over the crest, the crag is obvious on the right (1.1km from road).



The worthwhile climbing is spread across two distinctive buttresses.

## The Prow

The obvious prow.

### 1/ Fun Run Font 2

Hop onto the lip of the prow from the undercut block and traverse the left wall.

John Hunt 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### 2/ French Start Font 4+

The clue is in the name! Leap to the good flattie on the left of the prow and scamper to the top.

John Hunt 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### 3/ Prowess Font 6B \*

Make a high step onto the very front of the prow and make a scary throw for the ledge on the left side.

John Hunt 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### 4/ Prime Suspect Font 7A \*\*

The obvious prow from a sitter at the very back makes a superb problem. Double heel hooks, slaps, the lot; passing the eponymous suspect hold and culminating in a desperate throw for the top.

### The Pike

The obvious freestanding Matterhorn-esque block provides a gently warm up for the main event on the prow.

The first 3 climbs take place on the north facing side.

### 1/ Hatchet Font 4+

The left arête is pleasant enough.

### 2/ Pike Font 5

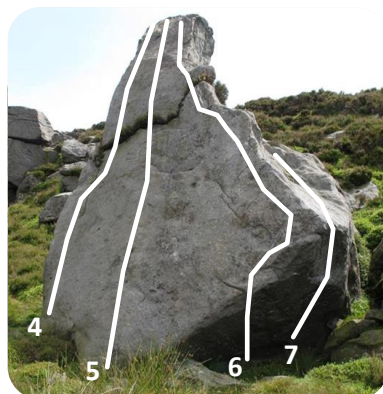
The mucky central groove to finish up the crack - the grime in the lower half is easily avoided, giving a pleasant problem.

### 3/ Gun Font 5+

SDS. The right arête climbed on its left.

### 4/ The Shearframe Font 5

Padding up the left arête of the slab can be done at Font 5 if you're strict about which holds you use!



### 5/ Javelin Font 4+

The centre of the face via the convenient "bivi ledge".

### 6/ The Cropper Lads Font 6A+

SDS. Start under the overhang and climb the right arête. A tricky start leads to an easy path to the top.

### 7/ Tractor Boys Font 6A+

SDS. From hold under the slab, mantle the lip, reaching for the arête *only* once over it. The holds on *The Cropper Lads* are out.

John Hunt 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015



The gritstone tricolour: purple heather, grey grit, blue skies. Will Hunt hanging out on Prime Suspect.