

Burley Moor Crag

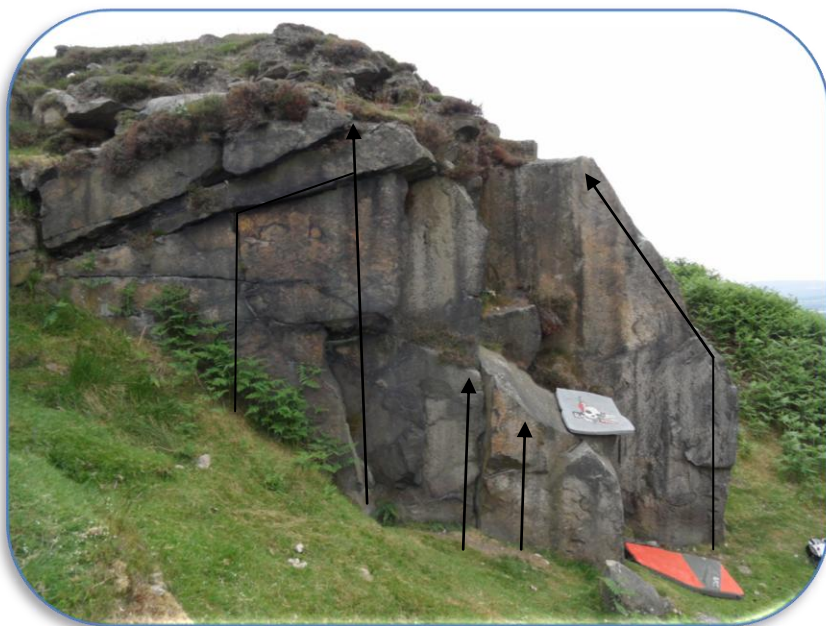
THE BURLEY MOOR CRAGS

SE145451

Coldstone Beck Crag is the obvious quarried area at the top of the footpath leading up from the parking spot on the Moor Road between Burley Woodhead and Ilkley. There is some bouldering and some classy highballs here. The two Stead Craggs are just West along the Moor back towards Ilkley. East facing at 243m.

Access: Coldstone Beck and Stead Crag East are both clearly on access land; Stead Crag West might be just off it. Park in the layby on the bend just beyond Burley Woodhead. All three spots are obvious.

Coldstone Beck Crag



1

2

3

4

5

Burley Moor Crag

1/ **Crack Wall** 4+ (VS 4c)

Sit start on the slope amongst the ferns. Take the vertical crack into the horizontal break, traverse to the cleaned nose and carefully pull over.

2/ **Groove** 4 (VS 5a)

Sit start in the right facing groove. Climb the face. Finish as for the previous route.

3/ **Southern Softie** 3

(HS 4b)

Sit start the jamming crack. It can be finished up the upper corner above (it's best to swing back left onto the nose to the common finish of the first two routes).

4/ **The Burley Slappers Series**

All start from sitting with hands on the obvious slot under the overlap.

a) Slap the edge and throw for the apex. 5.

b) As above but eliminate the apex and grind over. 5+.

c) Eliminate the big sloping foot ramp on the right. 6a.

5/ **Decurion** E2 5a

Follow the left side of soaring arête all the way to the apex. Graded for the "it'll snap you" landing zone caused by the

quarried cut-out under the upper arête.

6/ **Decurion Sitter** 6a

The sit start increases the technical interest but maintains the nasty fall potential.

7/ **Woodhead Cop Out** 5+ (HS 5a)

Tackle Decurion as far as the good holds on the arête but swing around the arête onto the finish of Burley Brave.

8/ **Burley Brave** S 4a

A bold traditional line following the arête. Gaining the positive holds at mid-height is the crux.

9/ **Wharfedale Warrior** 5+ (HVS 5a)

Mantel (sit start, but arguably as awkward from standing) onto the central nose and balance up the wall to better holds. Bold.

10/ **Coldstone Beck Traverse** 6b

Sit start as for Wharfedale Warrior. Turn the arête and urgently cross the face before a swing across the corner to gain the lip of the square cut-out block. Pull up onto this to finish.

11/ **Far Corner** S 4b

The right hand corner from standing. Finish wherever the holds look clean.

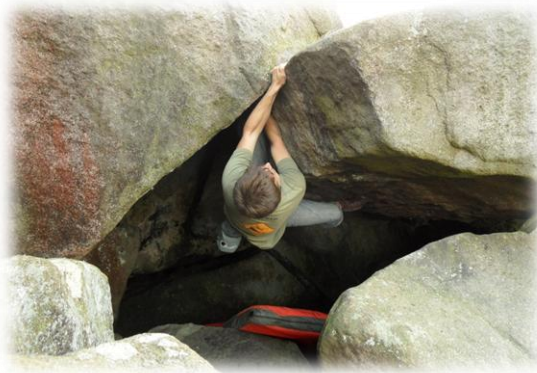
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7 8 9 11

STEAD CRAGS

Another area with an obscure history. Rumours have it that the legendary John Syrett was active here. Another enigmatic titan of Yorkshire climbing, Paul Farish, recalls climbing here but recorded nothing.



John Hunt on Midge Free World

Burley Moor Crag

Stead Crag East

1/ Midge Free World 5

Start sat at the very back of the cave. Swing along the subterranean rail to emerge into the daylight. Press out and gain the top of the capping block.

2/ Other Side 5

Sit start on the block at the right end of the great cave. Jam and grope up the overlying block, trying to stay on the front face – eliminate and a bit disappointing.



The left hand side of the upper tier has several possibilities. The recorded lines are on the obvious fin of orange hued rock and the adjoining block.

3/ Orange Fin Problems

I Bull-work the orange fin from a sitting start. 4+.

II As above but avoid the central hold. 5.

III SDS. The fin using the central feature and the right arête. Fantastic. 5.

4/ Suspect 3

The wall beside the fin on suspiciously good holds.

5/ Clamp 6a.

Sit clamped to the blunt arête. Use holds on the left wall to gain the top.

6/ Letters 7a

The letter-chipped right face, off the arête. Pivot up to poor holds from a solid footbase.

Burley Moor Crag

Stead Crag West



1

2 3

The friendly bouldering wall on the left. The problems are obvious from the positions of the first ones.

1/ The little bulging wall between the cracks; three sit starts:

a) **Little Bulger All** 2 Using everything.

b) **Little Bulger Right** 3. The right edge only.

c) **Edgeless** 4. No edges.

Main wall:

2/ **Arête** 3

3/ **Left edge - No arête** 4

4/ **Centre of the wall** 4+
(**Centre sitter** f6a+ – will be a nightmare for the tall).

5/ **Just left of the Crack** 5
Without using it. 6a+ from a sit.

6/ **Crack 1** 4

Using the first crack and holds on the left wall. 5+ from a sit.

7/ **Crack 2** 3

8/ **Crack 3** 3

Pull over the bush. Left of the Great Flake.



9/ **Great Flake** 3

Layback up it.

10/ **Next Arête** 4

The next arête on its right.

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11/ **Stead West Traverse** 5

l-r from the little wall all the way to the last arête.

Brown Slab and Main Summit

The tallest group. No picture here – it is obvious.

1/ **Left Half** 4

The left side of the slab below the main summit.

2/ **Duck Round** 4

The right side of the slab – duck left round the holy bush at the top.

3/ **Stead West Main Summit** S 4a 5m

Attack the main summit direct (impossible to ignore the holds on the left).

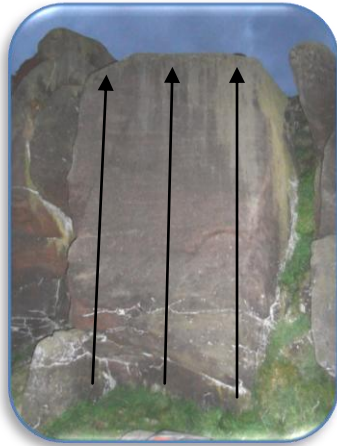
Right Wall

*The right wall needs doing.
Nasty landing.*

4/ **Skyliner** S 4a 3m

An airy traverse out along the top of the right face of the summit block. Pointless but exhilarating.

The final wall is brilliant:



1 2 3

1/ **The Bastard King** 6b

SDS. The left arête. The best boulder problem you'll ever do, bar none. Strenuous and technical at every turn. 6a from a step on.

2/ **Midgard** 6b+

The middle of the slab pressing up from the deep central hold and a foothold on the right arête. Smears and tiny holds lead to a square cut finish.

Paul Clarke, John Hunt (Sitter by Paul Clarke – but he doesn't know how).

1/4/2014

3/ **The Lion of Justice** 6a

SDS. The right arête. 5 from standing.