

Kirk Stones and North Stones

Climbs: 29
Altitude: Kirk Stones: 340m
North Stones: 360m
Faces: South

Conditions information:

Another couple of spots on the hallowed moor (Morton Moor for the boundary geeks but basically part of Ilkley Moor); just over the Airedale side of the watershed. It has a distinctly spiritual feel with the name, singing-spring and the general outlook.

Some musings on the history of the area can be found on these two websites:

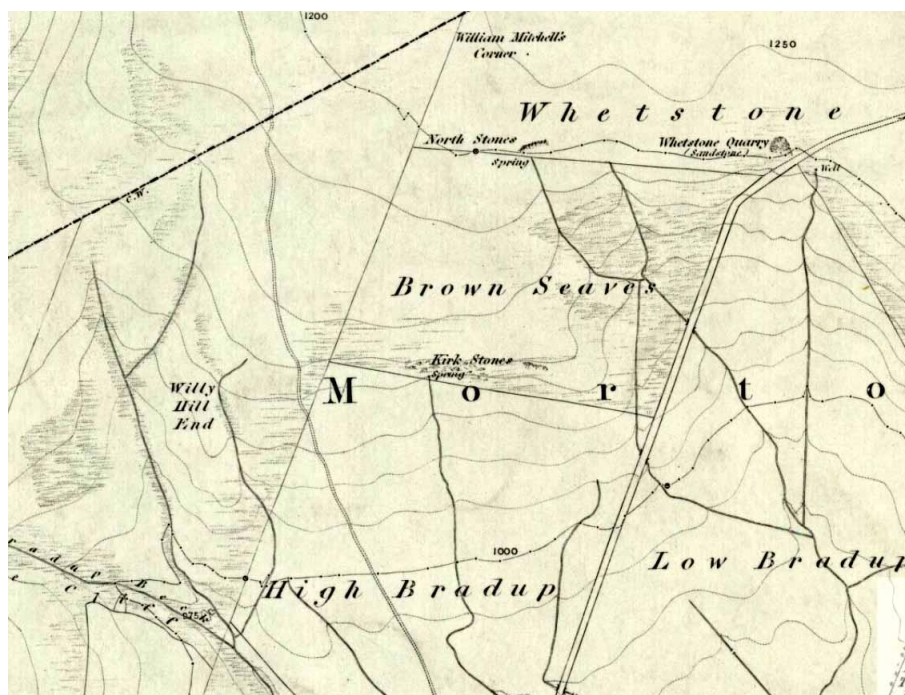
<https://megalithix.wordpress.com/2016/02/19/kirk-stones/>

<http://www.megalithic.co.uk/article.php?sid=47988>

Pocked by bullets and flecked by shotgun shot. There were also some marks suggestive of brushing so many have been climbed before.



John Hunt on a Hadouken! variant.



An 1851 map from Megalithix.wordpress.com – the walls and the road are all in the same place.

Little Left Kirk Stone

Left of the main block – pretty obvious. There were only four problems until Bruce Woodley inspired a bit of a gold-rush.



1

3 4

5

6

1/ **Up'ill** 2

Up the left side from a sitter off the slope.

2/ **Middle Break** 6a

Traverse the front face rightwards and around the corner – keeping off the top the whole way.

3/ **Menhir** 5+

Sit, hands in the break and go for the big pocket on the left.

4/ **Tips** 6a+

Sit – break to a finger-tip pocket / crimp above the higher break - eliminates all the big holds in that break.

5/ **Megalix** 5+

Sit. Centre face, tough moves up the middle, no arête. Hang low break and contort through.

6/ **Right Arête Right** 4+

Sit. There is a key foothold in the indent near the arête.

7/ **Rude Not** 2 3

A stand of the other side of the arête.

8/ **Morsel** 2+

Sit. The little side wall.

9/ **Top All The Way** 2+

Ride the whole top left – why not?

The Main Kirk Stone

The obvious biggest block with the bullet holes.



1 2/3 4 5 6 7 8

1/ Sidewall 4

Easy until a slightly harder top. The low step near the arête helps then is a bit of a worry.

2/ Shot 4

Left arête from standing.

3/ Shot Sit 5

Left arête from sitting.

4/ Book of Shot 5

Sit. The face, bookended, using both arêtes.

5/ Juggling Bullets 5+

Sit. Middle corner / arête. Feet on ramp to start. Intricate climbing without the left arête.

6/ Hadouken! 6a

Sit. Crimps up the middle – endless combinations. Has been done without the ramp for feet but kicking on high above it.

7/ Troika 6b+

A strict eliminate. Sit bunched with feet on little and hands on the big low hold. Gain the finger-shredder on the right, step and pop for

the top before it all unravels. Has also been done as a dyno, **Kirk Stone Bypass 6b**, but with a kick out left after the leap.

8/ Kirk Arête 5+

Sit. The right arête with a hard pull-through.

9/ Expedition Arête 4+

Sit around to the right. Start below the shelf, win it and pull up the next arête to the apex, pull over there (no standing on the lower shelf).

10/ Kirk Dug-Less 6c

Traverse the east side starting hanging the cut-away. A long reach wins the start of the sloping shelf - the top is out. Use the lip and some side-pulls to a final long reach for the jug at the right end of the block. Rock-over to finish.

11/ Trogglehumper 3+

A right to left traverse of the eastern wall with hands on the top and body in full play - don't wear anything decent or bare skin. Finish at the Expedition Arête.

Kirk Stones & North Stones, Morton Moor

12/ **Full Trogglehumper** 4+

A full traverse of the top of the entire boulder.

A high-feet start is possible but probably misses the point.



Richard Allen in full focus on Hadouken!



Bruce Woodley dwarfing the Wood Fossil block but still loving it.

Kirk Stones & North Stones, Morton Moor

The Wood-Fossil Block

Just downhill from the main bloc – notice the amazing tree fossil. Best done in reverse order:



1

2

3/4

1/ Wood-Fossil Arête 6a+

Sit. Left arête. Much harder than it looks.

2/ Sacrifice Wall 6a

Kneeling start off the lowest crimps. Straight up the middle.

3/ Voyage 5+

Sit. From the ledge, traverse left and up to the apex.

4/ High Voyage 4

Sit. Ledge then the right arête all the way to the apex. Superb.

Kirk Stones & North Stones, Morton Moor

NORTH STONES

Best to park at near Whetstone Quarry and walk right of the wall. It is pretty obvious from the map. It would be possible to link with Kirk Stones but both approaches are really simple and mostly bog free from the road.

1/ **Leftie** 5

Sit start from carefully padded blocks.
Undercuts up to high holds.

2/ **Returner** 6a

Sit. The left arête. Powerful.



2

5

6

3/ **Go with The Throw** 6b+

Sit. The left side without the arête via an undercut in lowest break and a side-pull. A powerful pull-on to make the throw for the top. The right foot hold is now a bit of a sandy side-thing.

4/ **Main Traverse** 4

Right to left under the capping block.

5/ **Tainted** 4

Traverse out and grope around the capping block.

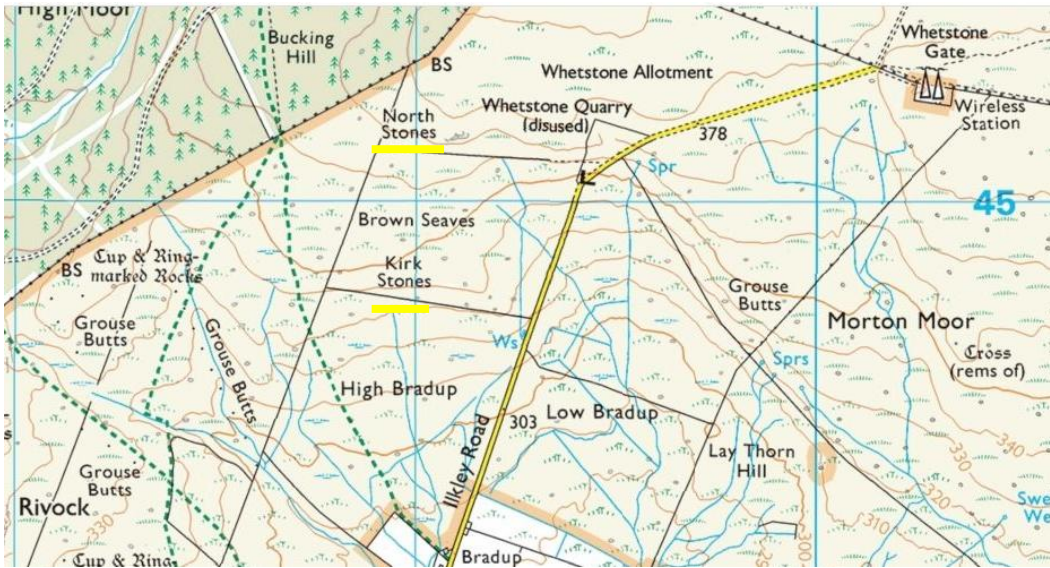
6/ **Stimulator** 5+

Traverse out and take the capping block head on – stimulating.

John Hunt, June 2018

Kirk Stones & North Stones, Morton Moor

Appendix 1 – The OS Map:



The crags are underlined in yellow.

Appendix 2: FAs or FRA

Bruce Woodley (May 2018)– The **Trogglehumpers** are both his. He inspired and conspired in lots of action on the first little block.

Paul Clarke (June 2018) – **Kirk Stone Bypass, Kirk Dug-less, Go with The Throw** at North Stones. Once the crag was released to the retired ‘problem hoover’.

John Hunt (March-May 2018) – Everything else.



Kirk Stones, late afternoon.