

Ilkley Buckstones

Climbs – 60
(Font 4
to 7b).

Altitude
390m asl.

Faces All
directions
but mostly
north.

**Other
condition
info:**

A group of
boulders



set high on the moors above Ilkley and the Aire Valley but easily approached (see below). They provide a nice circuit for summer evenings being at altitude and catching any breeze. Their north-facing aspect means that some problems become green over time, though most are currently clean. Best to bring a brush. Many people have added problems here in the past but Andy Jack, Rob Fenton, Ed Bailey, and John Hunt are definitely amongst the guilty. More recently Will Hunt and Paul Clarke stole in too.

Parking and approach info:

Ample parking at Whetstone Gate, approached by a surfaced road on the southerly side of the moor and from where the Eastern Group can be seen. In dry weather go through the gate and follow the wall-side path westward. A dryer walk is to go forward to Cowper's Cross (also visible from the gate) and follow the obvious path to the first boulders.



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East Group, East Block.

The first blocks reached.



1/ Lo and Behold 4

SDS. Monkey up the twin arêtes on the separate block from the cave left of Left Arete.

Project

SDS. From the good hold just right of the crack a big moves gains a sloper and a high step to reach up.

The wall and arête to the right give several variations.

2/ Left Arete Left 6b*

Up for sloper on arête with right hand, paste feet high on smears and crank through for top.

2a/ Left for Later 6c *

SDS. RH on undercut crack, LH on obvious hold. Use right leg lock to gain a pinch using a micro-crimp on the arête and a tough move up to gain the sloper on LAL.



3/ Left for Dead 6b+ *

The left arête tight and direct. SDS at shelf. Pull on to RH undercut the LH pinch. Crimp and sloper in the break then top. Climbs well.



Left for Dead – Paul Clarke

4/ Left Arête 5 *

Use the pocket and break to go for the top. Doesn't really use the arête that much!

5 Shallow Arse Crack 4+

The crack.

6/ Tight Arse Wall 5+

Use the good hold to pop right for the slot.

Project

The left side of the main arête all the way.

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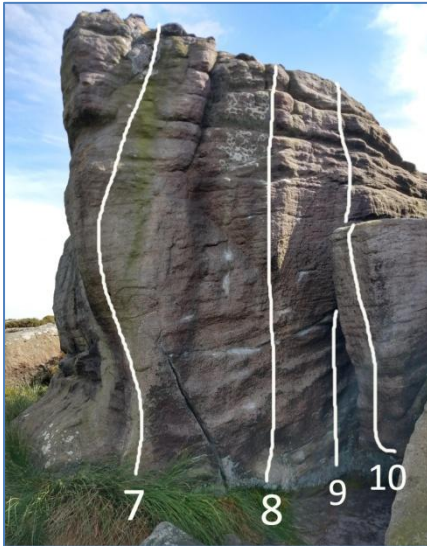
7/ Buckstones Arête 6c **

The fine arête. Start on left and finish on the right. A very good problem – feels high in the grade.

8/ Falling Apart at the Seams

7a **

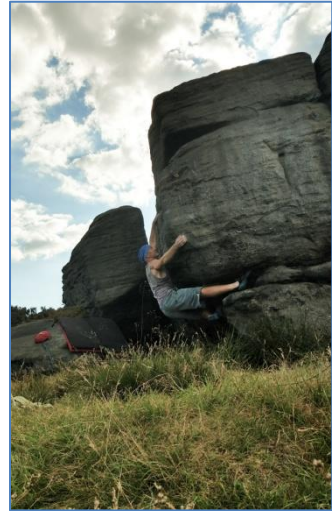
The wall starting hands in two vertical seams. LH in mono, RH crimp. Upwards via further crimps. A SDS has been done starting at the crack moving right to the next problem then back left but a better though morpho alternative would be to reach past the seams from the crack.



Through the gap to the right

11/ First Climb 5

The wrinkled right nose. Pull on, reach the break, and an easy finish.



Left for Later – Paul Clarke

Note: Problems hereabouts can be above a pool in wet weather.

9/ Back to the Wall 6b *

SDS. Follow various breaks to the top. Mind your back.

10/ Fair and Square 6a*

SDS and climb the square twin arêtes.

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About 60m to the west is the next set of blocks. A hanging slab and nose is obvious and provide the first problems.

Hanging Block.



1/ Tichy 5+

SDS. The short arête to the ledge – and maybe the easy slab above?

2/ Pullover 4*

Pull over on good holds.

3/ Jumper 6b+ **

SDS. Reach out to the good hold and then a less good one. The arête is reached and up. No knees allowed but a spotter is a good idea.

4/ Hanging Slab Arête 6c – 7a+ *

Morpho. From holds on the lip gain a better sloper and the clean flake on the arête. With a foot out right graunch up onto the slab. Monster – you choose the grade!

4a/ Hanging Slab Arête Sit 7b **

After reaching the good hold on Jumper move around the arête (avoiding the block behind) to gain HSA. Long legs help!

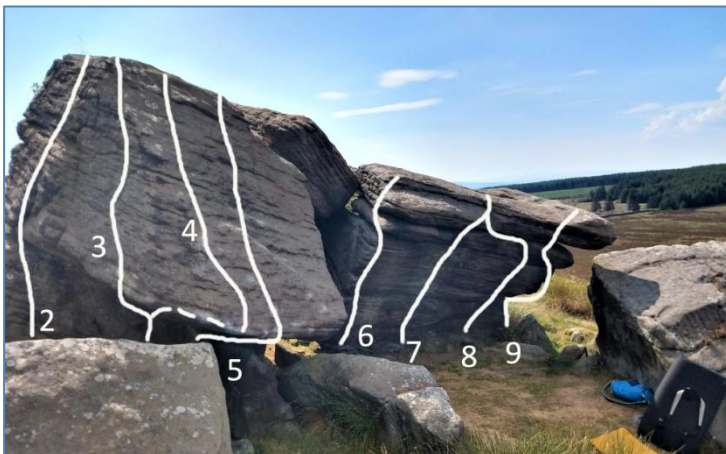
5/ Hanging Slab 7b **

Morpho. SDS. From the starting holds of Jumper reach out and style onto the hanging slab (or not). 7a+ from standing. Note – the FA is a very tall chap.

Leaning Block.

6/ Hanging Rib 6a

SDS. Pull like hell up the left arête.



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7/ Leaning Wall 7a++? *

SDS. Somehow make a **very** hard/long move off the starting holds to gain the break and a welcome rest. The challenge of the top-out remains. Brush it first.

8/ Lean On Me (When You're Not Strong) 7a *

For those who can't do the previous problem. SDS just left of the rib. LH Slot/break RH sharp small undercut. Gain the break and swing left to join Leaning Wall.

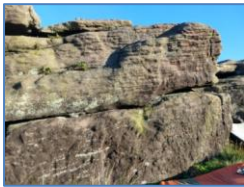
9/ Leaning Right 6c *

The right rib from SDS. Power up to twin holds and swing along the rib then round before another sloping top-out, possibly reaching right. A standing version is 6a-6b depending on where you start.

10/ Lean, Mean and Unforeseen 7a *

SDS. Follow Leaning Right to the break then across to the rest on Leaning Wall. Big breath and finish up Hanging Rib. A standing start version reduces the grade.

Around to the right is a scrittly wall. It can be climbed in several places but none of these are satisfying – or indeed worthwhile. However, its right arête is o.k.



Scrit Arête 4

SDS. The arête on its left side.

Below here are a series of slabby blocks leading up to the block behind Leaning Right. The first is down to the left (facing in).

Scooped Block.



1/ Riser 2*

The rising arête.

2/ One Scoop or Two? 3+*

Up the scoops. RH on flake.

3/ Or Three?

Direct LH on flake.

4/ Franklin Vicit 6b+ *

SDS. Either throw a leg over or just throw....

Centralis Block.



1/ L'Arête 2*

Left arête.

2/ Centralis 4 *

The centre.

3/ R'Arete 3 *

Right arête. It is also possible to avoid using the arête at a slight increase in grade.

4/ Easy Slab 2

The right slab

The back of the block has a rising top.

5/ Late Riser 5+ *

SDS at right side. Follow the top to the arête then round above Easy Slab

Some way over to the right is another slab- faced block

Slab Face.



1/ A Slab in the Face 5+

An ultra-low SDS then along the edge - all the way. Or just do the edge at Font 3.

2/ Middling 3+ *

The middle.

3/ Edging your Bets 3 *

The right edge. Or doing without it is slightly harder.

4/ 1,2,3,Go 4+*

SDS and pull up using the arête and good holds.

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West Group

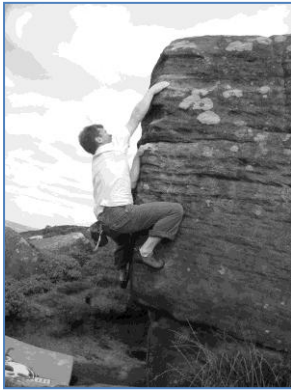


To the west, 5 mins along the wall, is another group of boulders. The area is divided by another wall.

The first problem is a blunt arête on an isolated block just below the wall and some 20m before the dividing wall.

Blunt Arête 6b+/c *

SDS and tackle the arête direct.
Good.



Blunt Arête – John Hunt

Careless Talk 5+

Down to the right is an undercut arête that looks (using oodles of imagination) a little bit like a mini-version of the uber-classic Careless Torque. Start with feet underneath and hands on the good holds at the base of the arête and follow up to the top.



Careless Talk

Behind here over by the wall is:



1/ Micro Fish 5

The short SDS arête.

2/ Fat Sloper Action 6c **

SDS. The whale-looking nose, by the wall and amongst the lower boulders. No block for feet.

3/ Cetacean Master 6c *

A hard pull of the RH scoop gains a crimp then steam along the top of the block to an easy rock-over finish.

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Top Edge

Back on the top edge is:



1/ Crack and Arête 5*

The cracked arête above the dry-stone wall. Place mats carefully.

The following problems are accessed by crossing the wall, either by stepping down from the start of Crack and Arête or via the crag-top stile.

2/ Collie Wobbles 5

Just right, pad up the slab beneath and reach up for a good hold before rocking up onto the (pre-cleaned) top.... scary!

Just to the right is a hanging rib:

3/ Hanging Rib 4+

Step up and force yourself to stay on the left side. Don't fall.



Over to the right:

Top Tips

1/ Top Tips 6a+ *

SDS at low break. Pull onto the arête and slab. Surprisingly tough.



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Below the edge is a jumble of blocks, the largest of which has a prominent crack splitting its uphill face. This is the Pyramid Boulder. Just above this is a prominent though small jutting roof.

Small but Perfectly Formed.

1/ Pulling Shapes 6c

From the jug on the nose make a big pull to the side-hold on the rib and contort left to finish. Toe on right block allowed to start.

2/ Small but Perfectly Formed 6c *

SDS at the jug. Move right to a big rock-over finish by the nose.

Frustratingly difficult for the short-armed.



Small but Perfectly Formed – Paul Clarke

3/ Crank and Lank 6c *

Follow SBPF to the rib but keep going with a swing (keep your bum up!) to gain the big hole by a throw. Rock left to finish.



Pyramid Boulder



1/ The Crack 2 *

Short but nice.

2/ Three 3 *

Well featured wall to the right.

3/ Thai Green Curry 4+

The left side of the slab around to the right, not using the arête needs a clean.



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4/ Lemon Grass 5+

The left arête of the downhill face.
Sit start, slap up to some good holds
and top out at the highest point on
the boulder.

5/ The Other Crack 2

As it says.

6/ Larry Small Size 3+

The Barry King-Size like features
(with imagination) on the right hand
side of the south face.



Clingon Block

Back up and right is a block with a
steep and dark downhill face.

1/ Clingon 6c **

SDS to left side of arête. RH
undercut, LH flattyy.
Heel-hook around the corner where
a side-pull and crimpy slopers allow
a step up and pop for the rib. Rock
up to finish.

