

Burley Woodhead Quarry by Malcolm Townsley

(Crag Top by Unknownstones)

Crag features

A series of quarries located on open moorland above Moor Road about 500m North West of Burley Woodhead on the south bank of Coldstone Beck. Marked on maps a Barks Crag. Far quieter than Ilkley, the place has a peaceful feel with a beautiful outlook. The main (central) quarry offers some nice impressive lines while a series of smaller quarries to either side offer generally steady bouldering and the odd short route. The harder routes in the main quarry were documented in the 1970s by John Harewood and John Syrett and so take the grades with a pinch of salt. There is evidence of earlier development in the left-hand quarry and on the right-wing terrace of the main quarry with old chipped/improved holds evident which would indicate these lines were climbed in the 1950s/60s when manufacturing holds was far more common. As a couple of the chipped lines are boulder problems it seems likely that many of the other boulder problems on the edge would have been climbed at this time along with the easier routes.

The crag generally faces north and so is a poor option in winter but is good in hot weather. The rock is generally sound but there is evidence of two sizeable rock-falls on the left-hand wall of the main quarry (in the last 30 or so years) and so lookout for any recent instability and treat this area with caution.



Approach notes

Reasonable parking is available on the south side of Moor Road close to where Moor Road crosses Coldstone Beck near to two hairpin bends. The quarry is visible to the south (uphill) from the gate onto the moorland. Take the left-hand path across Coldstone Beck and follow a path south eastwards close to a wall which leads to the quarry. For **Crag Top** follow the alternative approach.

Crag Top Quarry

Parking and approach info:

Where Moor Lane comes up from Burley in Wharfedale and meets Moor Road the roads surround a triangular grass lawn. Ample parking can be had here though please park with consideration for other road users. Cross the road and onto the strip of access land coming down from the moor. Follow the major path uphill then southwards. As the big house is approached the quarry is on the right. Going up right from the parking accesses the other areas.

Prime Cut:

Beneath the house is a fine quarry remnant of impeccable rock.



1/ Prime Cut Left 6c **

From a low hold climb the overhanging left side of the arête using whatever comes to hand. The full SDS is a project.

2/ Prime Cut Right F6a **

Same SDS but go round the arête and climb direct up the right side.

3/ Primer F6a *

Same start but pull across to the thin cracks and up.

4/ Pri-mer F6a *

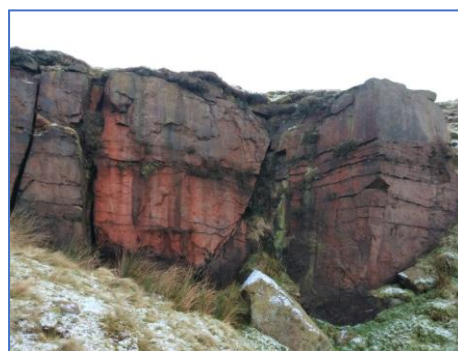
Follow Primer but keep traversing to a fitting conclusion.

Orange Walls:

Opposite and obvious.

Orange Crush F4 *

The obvious arête.



Grey Wall:

At the back of the quarry.

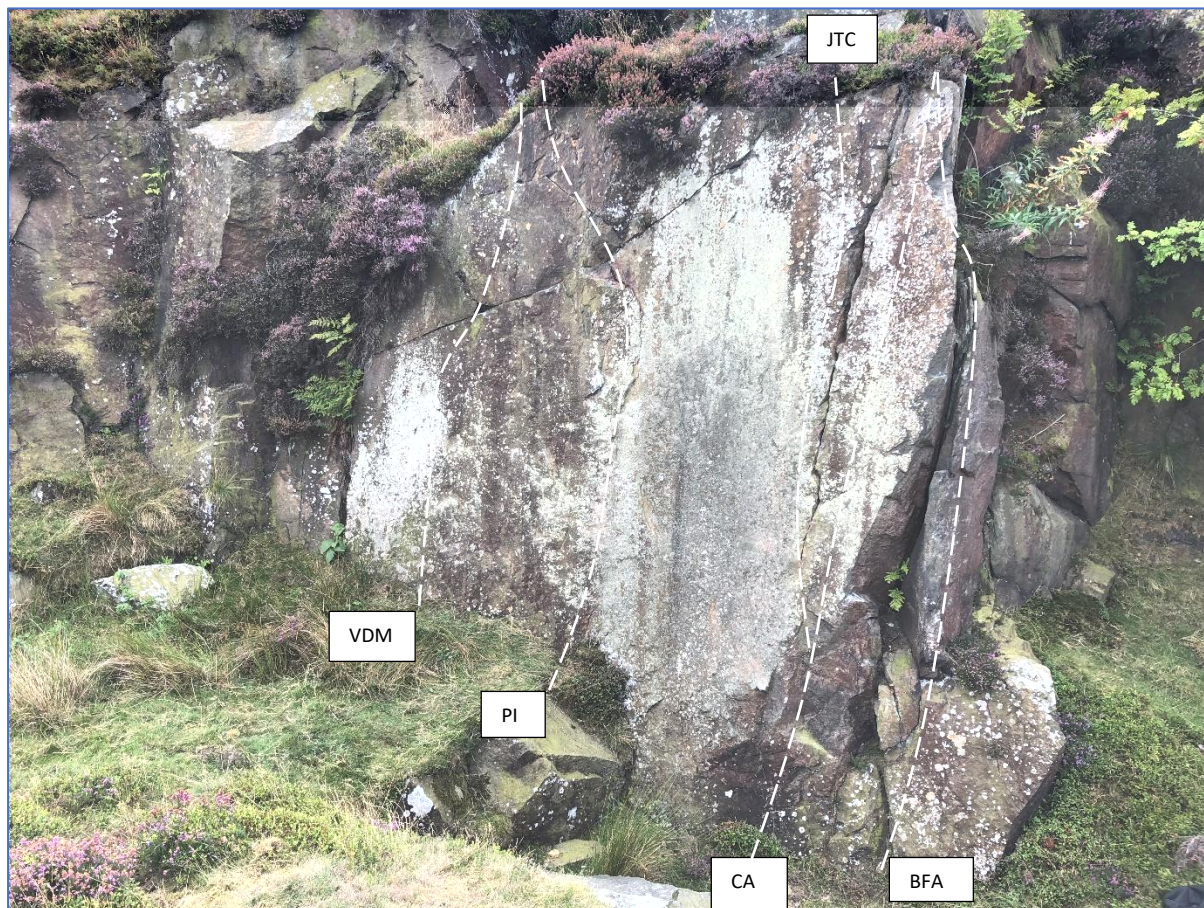
Needs a scrub – probably also needs a spike abseil. Quite high.



to

Left-hand Quarry

A smaller quarry about 50m left of the main quarry offering a few good (often chipped) low grade problems and one route. There are two good blocks separated by a more broken area with a big rowan tree.



VDM. Venus de Milo F4 Left-hand Quarry, left-hand side of left-hand wall (at higher level and 1m right of a vegetated crack) use flakes and chipped holds to gain a prominent triangular hold and finish direct via obvious incuts.

Venus de Milo Un-chipped F5 Problem 1 without using the chips is better. MT 30/08/22

PI. Pieta F4+ Left-hand Quarry, 1m Right of 1 at the right end of the higher level. Using the chipped holds climb the wall via a right facing seam to a niche then finish trending left to good incuts.

Pieta Un-chipped F6a Problem 2 without using the chips has a difficult start. MT 30/08/22

CA. Crack and Arête F4+* Left-hand Quarry, left-hand wall. Starting from the lower level climb the left side of the right arête of the block with the aid of the thin crack. The wider flake crack to the right is out. The crux is high up and it may be worth HS 5a without a mat.

JTC. Just the Crack F5 From the big low flat hold climb the thin crack of Crack and Arête without using the arête. At the top finish left of the crack using a good incut to the left. Crux is high up and it may be worth MVS 5b without a mat.

BFA. Big Flake and Arête F3+ Left-hand Quarry, left-hand wall. Right side of arête using big flake which is generally solid. From the top of the flake step left onto the left side of arête to finish using crack. The crux is high up and it may be worth VD 4a without a mat.

WW. West Wind S 4c*. 6m?. Left-hand Quarry, right-hand wall. Climb the wall starting 1.5m right of the wide crack containing a rowan tree to half height (part chipped) then move left above the tree into the wide slanting crack and finish up this to a reasonable exit. Hiball F4.

RC. Ragged Crack F4. Left-hand Quarry, right-hand wall. The nice technical crack 1m right of West Wind using incuts and finger locks.

CA. Curved Arete. F4*. Left-hand Quarry, right-hand wall. The clean curved arete bounding the right edge of the block on its left side. Finishing holds are good.

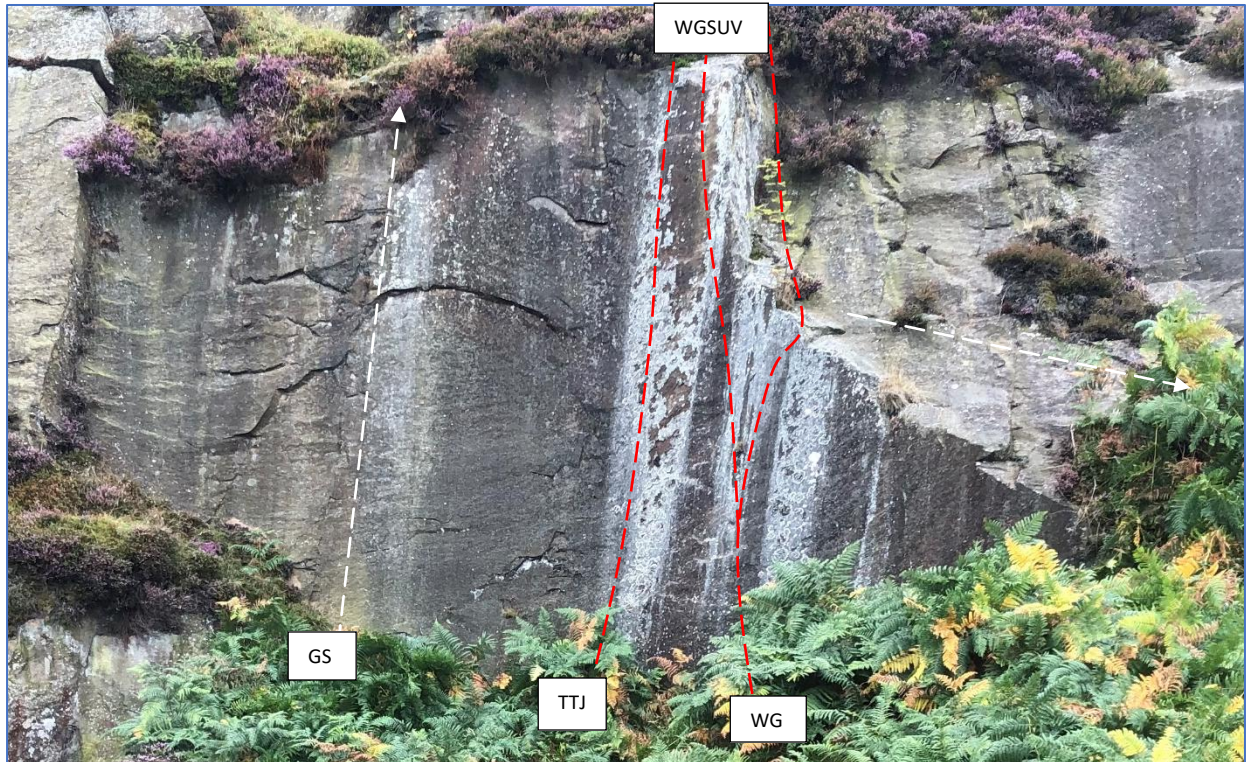
CAR. Curved Arete Right Hand. F3+. The right side of the curved arete is much shorter and not as good.



Main Quarry

The impressive main quarry offers some nice looking lines. The left-hand wall faces north and has some suspect rock but is generally clean due to its steepness. The right hand wall is slabbier, faces east and is generally more vegetated and lichen covered. There is a good belay stake which can be used for all the routes on the right-hand wall. Only the bouldery lines on the Right Wing Terrace are described.

Right Wing Terrace



Lines at the L side of the terrace are serious as the terrace is narrow here and there is a big drop below.

GS. Green Streak HVS 5c

5m. Climb the light green streak in the centre of the wall. The terrace is narrow here and there is a big drop below this and so not a boulder problem.

TTJ. Two Ten Job E1 5b*

6m. The lovely curved groove at the right end of the terrace wall is not as hard as it appears from below and is climbed on a series of chipped and natural holds with nice balancy moves. Possibly hiball F5+ with a couple of mats (the landing is good). Make sure that it is clean or you will not find the holds.

WG Whispering Grass MVS 5a

6m. Climb the wall 1.5m right of Two Ten Job and rock onto the easy angle slab. Either escape right from here across the slab (F4+) or finish up the easy heathery right facing corner 1m right of the finish to Two Ten Job at MVS. MT 30/08/22.

WGSUV. Whispering Grass – The “Shut Up” Variation HVS 5a*.

6m. Start directly below the prominent hanging arete about 1.5m right of the start to Two Ten Job as for Whispering Grass but climb directly to the base of the arete and finish up this on its left side (also the easier finish to Two Ten Job). MT 15/09/22.

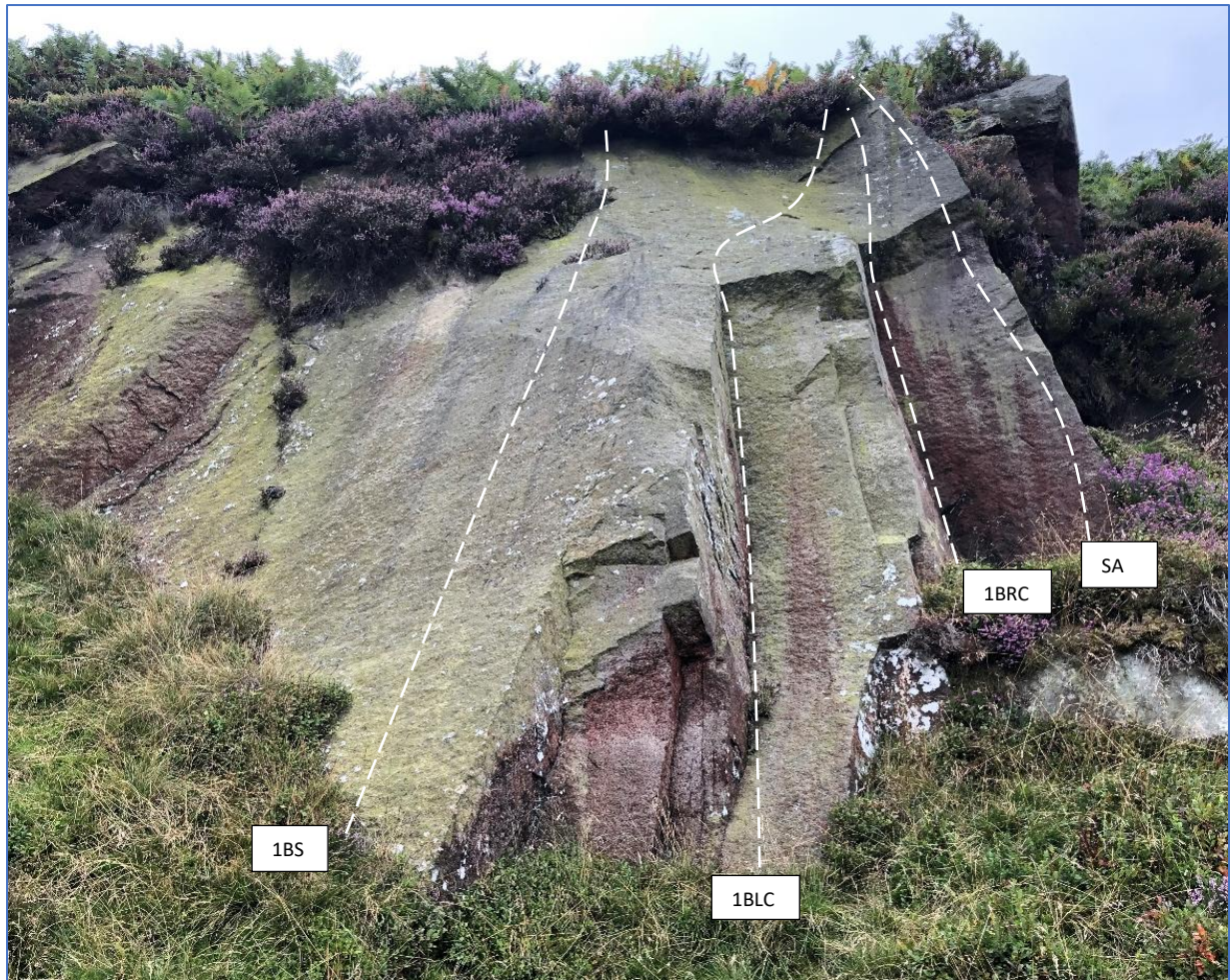
Right-hand Quarries

Low slabby quarries between 40 and 200m right of the right-wing terrace offering a few generally easy boulder problems and short routes. Going up the hill from left to right.

1st Bay



1BC. 1st Bay Crack F4 Right-hand Quarries first bay (Low slabby quarries between 40 and 200m right of the right-wing terrace) The well featured cracked wall in the left wall of the 1st bay. Start in the pit, difficult exit.



1BS. 1st Bay Slab F4+ Right-hand Quarries first bay, right wall. The slab left of the left-hand corner of the slabby right wall of the 1st bay starting from the lowest point of the block.

1BLC. 1st Bay Left Corner F3 Right-hand Quarries first bay, right wall. The left-hand corner in the slabby right wall of the 1st bay exiting right up the scoop.

1BRC. 1st Bay R Corner F4* Right-hand Quarries first bay, right wall. The right-hand corner in the slabby right wall of the 1st bay passing an overlap and exiting up the scoop.

SA. Stepped Arete F5* Right-hand Quarries first bay, right wall. The left side of the sharp arête right of the right-hand corner without using holds in the corner to the left (1st Bay R Corner). Much easier and poor if climbed on the right.

2nd Bay



SBC1. Sheep's Bay Crack #1 F5* Right-hand Quarries second bay. The overhanging hand crack high up in the left wall of the 2nd bay. From a SDS climb the crack (using only the crack for hands and feet) then hand traverse the lip of the block leftwards to the slab and finish up the left edge of the block. MT 1990s.

SBC2. Sheep's Bay Crack #2 F5+* Right-hand Quarries second bay. As for Sheep's Bay Crack #1 but half way along the hand traverse exit directly over the lip onto the heather. MT 05/09/22

SBS. Sheep's Bay Slab F3+ Right-hand Quarries second bay. The slab and short upper arete on the slabby wall to the right of Sheep's Bay Crack. Start at the lowest point.

2BW. 2nd Bay Wall F4. Right-hand Quarries second bay. At a lower level down and to the right of Sheeps Bay Slab. Climb the featured wall from its lowest point without using the arête to the right.

3rd Bay

The left side of this bay has several poor lines but the right-hand side is good.



MB. Message in a Bottle F4+ (VS 5a)*. 6m? Right-hand Quarries third bay left-hand block. Prominent high block with a distinctive arête at the right side of the 3rd Bay. Climb the slab 1m left of the arête to a heathery ledge at two-thirds height. Finish directly up the slab 1m right of a heathery groove to a prominent wide slot. Given a bouldering grade as the upper part of the slab is not serious, you just roll down the heathery slope. MT 1990s.

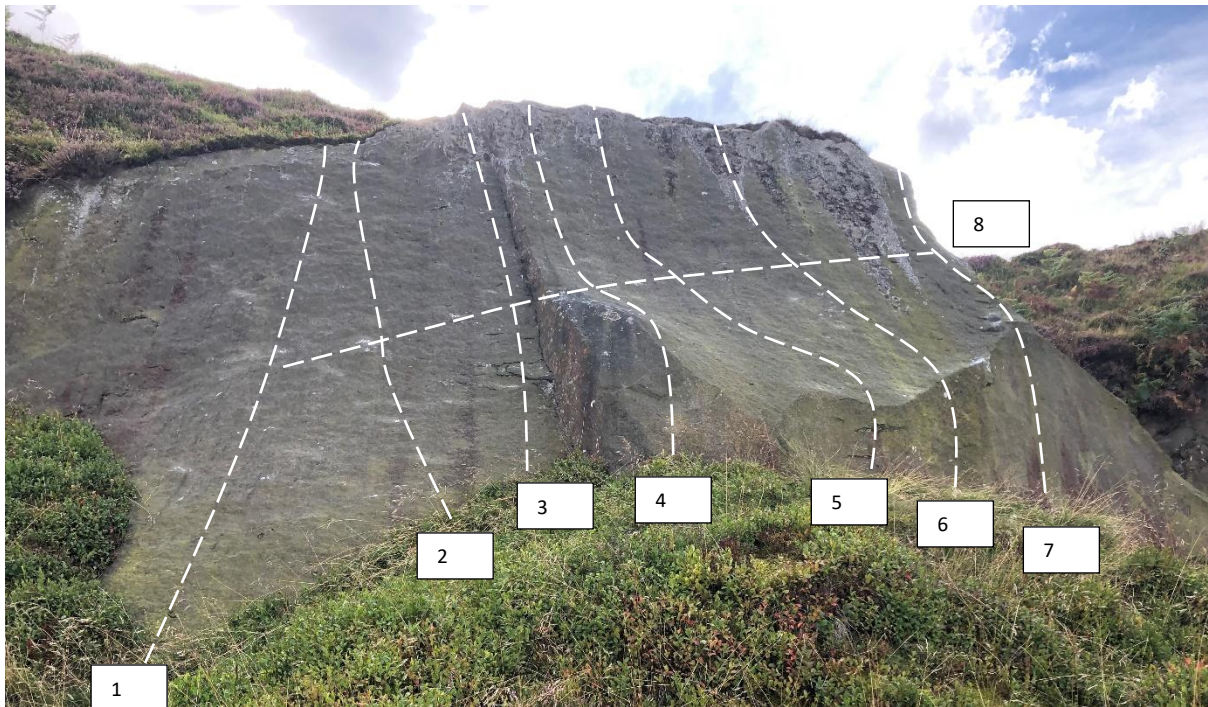
UTR. Uptown Top Ranking VS 5a (F4+)*. 6m Right-hand Quarries third bay left-hand block. Prominent high block with a distinctive arête at the right side of the 3rd Bay. From the lowest point on the block climb the left side of the sharp slabby arête. Highball F4+, the hardest moves are at the start. 1950s/60s?

UTRR. Uptown Top Ranking Right Hand MVS 4c (F4). 6m Right-hand Quarries third bay left-hand block. Prominent high block with a distinctive arête at the right side of the 3rd Bay.

From the lowest point on the block climb the right side of the sharp slabby arête to half height then rock into the scoop and finish as Uptown Top Ranking. Highball F4, not serious and easy to escape.

Nice Slab

At the far-right side of the 3rd bay is a pleasant low slab offering plenty of low grade lines and numerous eliminates.



1. Nice Slab #1 F4+ Slab at far-right side of the 3rd bay. The slab left of the short corner from its lowest point.

2. Nice Slab #2 F5 Slab at far-right side of the 3rd bay. Slab starting just left of corner and finishing as 1.

3. Nice Slab #3 F4+ Slab at far-right side of the 3rd bay. The corner and slab to left, nothing right of the arete.

4. Nice Slab #4 F3 Slab at far-right side of the 3rd bay. The right side of the arete formed by the right side of the corner starting at large holds.

5. Nice Slab #5 F4 Slab at far-right side of the 3rd bay. Rock onto slab 1m right of arete of Nice Slab #4 and climb the slab just right of arete without using it.

6. Nice Slab #6 F5 Slab at far-right side of the 3rd bay. Rock onto the slab 1m left of its right edge and climb the center of the slab right of the corner.

7. Nice Slab #7 F3+ Slab at far-right side of the 3rd bay. The right arete of the slab starting up a seamed short triangular shaped wall.

8. Nice Slab Traverse F5 Slab at far-right side of the 3rd bay. Left to right traverse with hands generally at about half height starting as Nice Slab #1 and finishing as Nice Slab #7.
MT 15/09/22.