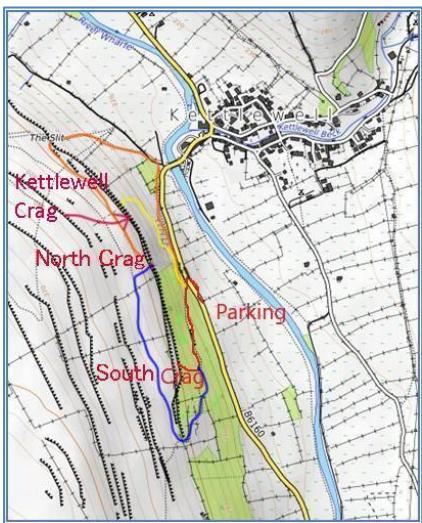


Kettlewell Crag



Character

The South and North Sectors of Gate Cote Scar just down the valley from Kettlewell are described in the York Sport 2025 booklet. These new Sectors are some way to the right. They are all north north-east-facing and quick drying since they benefit from morning sunlight. A 40m rope is, sufficient along with 9 clips. The rock is generally clean and the location is very pleasant with a fine outlook. Several routes top-out to lower-off at the ledges above the walls. A path below the routes is developing.

The climbs have been well cleaned though, as always, there is the possibility of loose holds,. Please approach as described and be aware that there is a footpath below some of the walls. The routes are described from left to right.

All of the climbs are worthwhile, some especially so.

Parking (see map) @opentopomap

As for Gate Cote, there is parking for three or four cars in a lay-by on the east side of the B6160 approximately 400m before Kettlewell when heading north. Please don't block the gate. A short distance along the road (towards Kettlewell) there is a gated footpath (where careful parking for two further cars is possible). If the parking places are full there are ample paid parking places in the village.

Approach (see map)

Yellow line on the map. Go through the gate and follow the path for 40m towards Kettlewell. A faint path branches off to go up the hill towards some fence posts and becomes a distinct path traversing the hillside. At a scree slope, go up its edge and then head diagonally right to pass above some trees. Just beyond a broken wall a ramp/path climbs to the crag. The routes are to the left.



Towards the far left side of the crag a tree protruding horizontally. The first route is to the left of this.

Evening Wall 10m F6a

Climb the wall keeping on its left side before stepping right at a prominent side-pull/pinch. Make a pull to reach the top and improvise onto the ledges above. The lower-off is just above

Dave Turnbull and Paul Clarke 06/25

Paul Clarke on Zionist Most Evil

The next route is by a large, dead tree

Justified and Ancient 9m F5b (no topo pic)

The wall leads to a groove and the lower-off is just above.

Dave Turnbull 06/25



Some way right are walls split by a white recess. The first route is 30m left of this by a well-cleaned corner. See topo below.

1/ The Birds Keep Singing 10m 6b+ *

Steep climbing on good holds. The wall just left of the cleaned corner to gain a prominent undercut at the bulge. A few steep moves gain the lower-off shared with the next route. *Mark Radtke 06/25*

2/ Zionists Most Evil 9m F6c **

A technical wall leads to fine moves on a succession of undercuts culminating in a long reach for a good jug. The lower-off is a few moves above. A good climb.

Mark Radtke, Gil Peel, and Dave Musgrove 06/25

3/ Incurable Tyrants 10m F6b **

Climb the steep wall, using an entertaining combination of side-pulls, to eventually reach a good jug on the top of a block in the hanging groove to the right. The lower-off is up to the left.

Mark Radtke, Paul Clarke and Dave Turnbull 06/25



4/ The Altruist 10m F6b **

Climb the wall and short corner to the overlap. Nice moves up a technical section between bolts 3 and 4 leads up and right to the lower-off on *Higher Ground*.

John Hunt and Mark Radtke 06/25

5/ Higher Ground 10m F6b+ *

Just to the right. Climb to the roof. Pass this by steep moves to gain a flake on the left and then good holds on the right. The lower-off is just above.

Paul Clarke and Dave Turnbull 06/25

6/ A True Yorkshire Gent 10m F6c **

Climb to the break and then the wall to gain a good flat hold and undercuts at the roof. Steep climbing on layaways (and with a tricky clip) leads to the biggest jug in Yorkshire and an easy finish. Steep pulls will keep you on your toes.

Paul Clarke, Dave Turnbull and Mark Radtke 06/25

7/ The Keeper 12m F6a *

Just to the right of the recess. Climb the wall. The lower-off is on ledges above.

Dave Turnbull and Paul Clarke 06/25

8/ Hit for Six 10m F6b

Start just to the right of an ash tree high on the crag. Climb to the bulge and pass it with a little urgency to a good flat hold. Easier climbing, where it is best to keep left, remains. The lower-off is on the ledges above.

Paul Clarke and Dave Turnbull 06/25



To the right is a nice, crinkly wall.

1/ Loyal Wall 8m F6a **

The wall on delightful rock leads to a ledge. The lower-off is just above. Glue-in bolts.

Dave Turnbull and Paul Clarke 06/25

A short way to the right, and past a small tree, the next climb is on a smooth looking wall

2/ The Reach 12m F6b/+ *

Steep climbing gains good jugs on the ledge above. Standing on this requires tricky or reachy moves (for those with the necessary arm length) and provides an interesting crux. Easier climbing leads to the lower-off on the ledges above.

Dave Turnbull and Paul Clarke 06/25

3/ 22 Yards 12m F6b

Nicely sustained climbing that gradually eases to the shared lower-off.

Dave Turnbull and Paul Clarke 06/25

To the right, past a chimney and prow, is a cave set at a much higher level. At some time in the distant past the roof has been pegged – though all but one of the rusty relics has now been removed.

4/ Dazed and Confused 6m F7a?? V5

Is it a route or a boulder problem? The undercut roof provides undercuts and a toe-hook before a big reach rightward to a reasonable hold. Gain improving holds above and finish easily. There is a single ring lower-off on ledges above. A grip-clip, stick-clip or mat will be found useful.

Paul Clarke 06/25



Going to the right again is a sector with a hanging niche, an obvious hanging groove and a doubtful wedged block

1/ Finding Your Niche 15m F6b+/c *

Climb the flaky wall and steeper rock to reach over the first bulge. Pass the niche and bulge with some haste before exiting onto easier ground and a glue-in lower-off in blocks above.

Paul Clarke, Dave Turnbull 06/25

2/ No Groove for Old Men 15m F6b *

Climb to and pass a steep section to gain the hanging groove. Go up and reach the ledge on the left. Layback up to stand on this and then climb out to a glue-in lower-off in blocks above.

Dave Turnbull and Paul Clarke 06/25

3/ Adamant Rib 9m F6b

Just to the right. Climb to the break and then step slightly right to use a pinch and layaway to reach a good jug. Climb the steep rib above passing a break and the lower-off to reach finishing holds above. Rather bouldery but nice.

Paul Clarke, Dave Turnbull Mark Radtke 06/25

4/ Fossil's Wall 9m F6a+ *

Just to the right. Climb to the roof. Pass this by steep moves to gain a flake on the left and then good holds on the right. The lower-off is just above. **Variation** - climb left of the bolts to stand *above* the block and then follow the crack to reach the lower-off.

Paul Clarke and Dave Turnbull 06/25

5/ When the Wind Blows 10m F6b **

Steep climbing with interesting moves makes this a good route. Climb the open groove feature above a cave. Lower-off.

Paul Clarke Dave Turnbull and Mark Radtke 06/25



History:

A wall above the left side of the main left sector is the site of a memorial to David Cade (Cadie), a local gentleman who was obviously highly respected in the neighbourhood. The climbing potential of the scar was first noted by Mark Radtke, Terry Holmes and Gil Peel in 2023 though development didn't really begin until 2025.

Notice:

The BMC recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions.

All fixed gear has been placed with regard to making these climbs as sport routes. However, the rock is mountain limestone and it is for the individual to assess the security they provide. Areas of loose rock remain between the cleaned lines. These should be avoided.