

GATE COTE SCAR (KNIPE SCAR EAST) Yorkshire Limestone Page 148.

This neglected crag hosts some compelling 80's lines that will benefit by being cleaned. The majority of these are on excellent water-worn limestone and have good protection but are currently rather dirty. The YL Guide warning of poor rock on the left-hand section is misleading. Recent activity has demonstrated that, with a bit of effort, this cleans up nicely and some very good climbs added to the gaps between existing routes. Well worth a visit.

The approach

Pass Kilnsey and take the Kettlewell road. Follow it past a lane on the left and park as on rounds the very long bend – by the first big tree. Limited parking – 2 cars max. Return a few metres and go through a new gate. A steep approach follows – 15 mins.

A new fence surrounds the wood in which the crag is located. This includes a stile-like feature on the left, where the fence meets the crag. Please make sure you approach by using this. Most of the routes top-out but with lower-off bolts just over the edge.

Sheltered in Westerly winds – not so in Easterlies

A short way right of the fence is a fine arête, taken by the first route.

The Fire Below 12m F6c or F6a+ **

Two variations exist. The best is to follow the slab to the break at the foot of the arête, commit and follow it direct by some fine moves.

The easiest, and a good warm-up, is to follow the slab to the foot of the groove on the right (taken in its upper part by the variation to Ash Tree Groove). Step up the groove for several metres and then swing out left to the arête.

09.05.09 Paul Clarke, Nigel Baker.

Heat of the Moment 14m F6c **

Start at the black slab right of The Fire Below. The middle of the slab without recourse to the cracks on either side has some excellent intricate moves. At the undercuts move right towards the tree. After stepping up some hard moves back left to gain the rib in fine position and the lower-off. The tree can be avoided (6c+).

29.05.09 Nigel Baker, Paul Clarke, Keith Morgan.

Moving rightwards one comes to the Blue Meanings Wall. The first route takes the left-hand rib.

The Measure of Things 15m F6c+ **

Gain the obvious thin flake at the left side of the wall and use it to gain a ledge. Step back right and up to a break, stepping right again to below the final overhang. Go up to the right side of this and pull through it and leftwards to good holds, easier ground and the top.

18.04.09 Paul Clarke, John Hunt.

To the right is an obvious groove.

Heading for the Groove 14m F6b **

A fun route. Difficult moves in the shallow corner lead to easier ground. Now head for the deep groove!

03.05.09 Brian Rossiter, Nigel Baker and Keith Morgan

Sunshine on a Rainy Day 15m F7a+ *

Climb straight up to the bulge on undercuts and side crimps. Pass the bulge by a couple of powerful moves, using the obvious undercut pocket and slot to gain jugs up and left above the roof. Once stood up then much easier climbing to the break. The steep clean crack leads on good holds to the belay.

21.04.09 Keith Morgan, Nigel Baker.

To See the Rainbow 15m F7a+ *

The bulging thin crack is now bolted and has had the loose flakes removed. Above climb to the blocked chimney and either tackle this direct or sensibly avoid it by use of the left rib. The groove of Arc en Ciel would also provide a good finish.

Two lines cross the fine wall at one third height

A Matter of Degrees 15m F7a ***

A technical start leads to strenuous moves over the bulge, good holds and easier climbing to a break. Pull into the niche and reach over onto the headwall to begin an excellent sequence of moves in a superb situation. Top out on the best holds that Yorkshire Limestone has to offer, lower-off the belay in the back wall.

19.04.09 Nigel Baker, Paul Clarke.

Arc en Ciel 15m F7a **

Glue in Bolts. Gain a hold in the thin crack and pull up to good holds above. Use flakes on A Matter of Degrees for a meter or two and then step left and up to a good rest below the chimney of To See the Rainbow. Make crisp moves up the wall on the right to a good undercut in the roof then up the obvious hanging groove by difficult pulls to reach huge holds and a simple finish. Lower off as for the previous route.

29.05.09 Paul Clarke.

The cracks to the right have all been cleaned and are very good routes – see 2005 YL Guide for details. The tree stump that once used to provide a high foothold on Mr Fahrenheit has gone making this harder.

