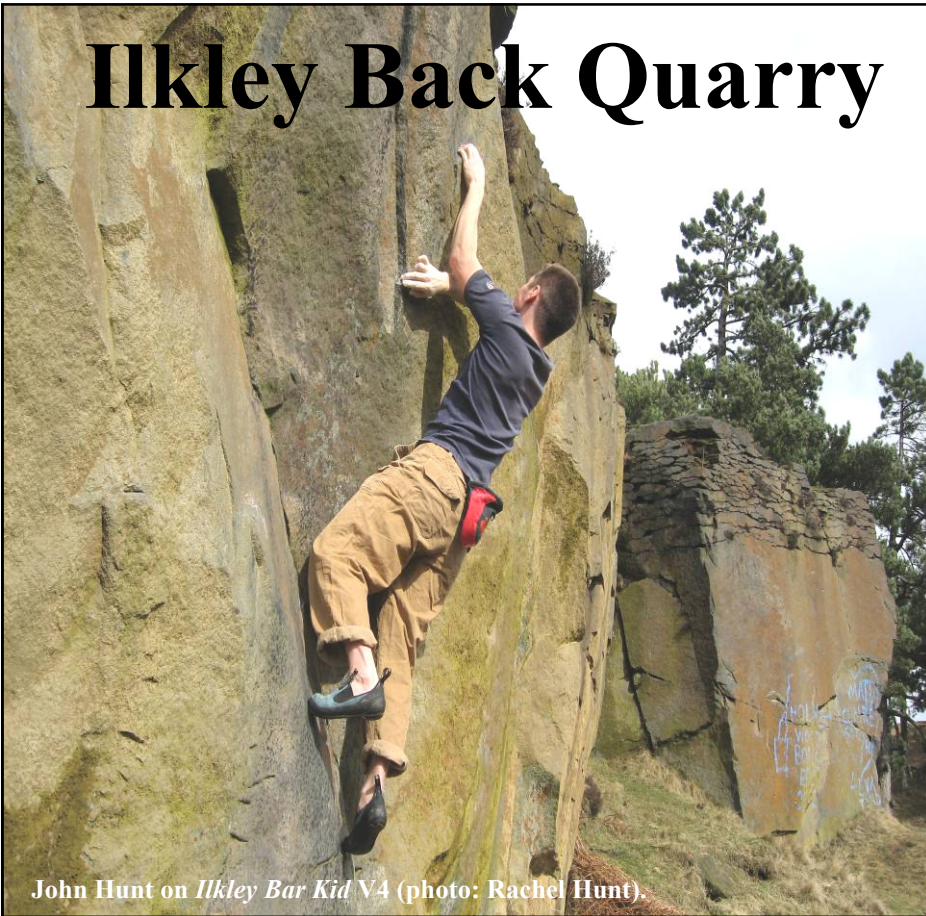


Ilkley Back Quarry



John Hunt on *Ilkley Bar Kid* V4 (photo: Rachel Hunt).

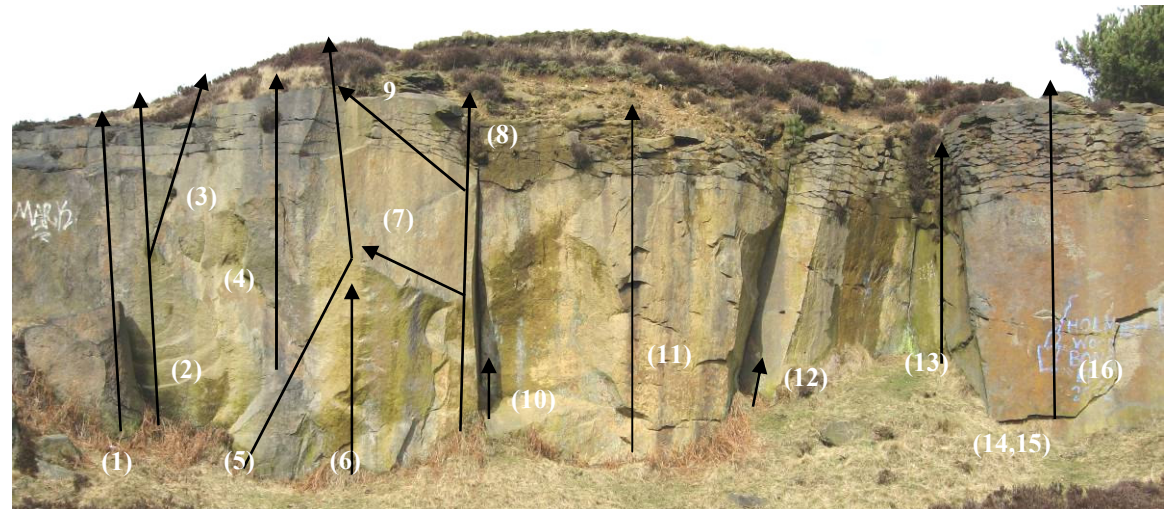
This overlooked quarry has been climbed on for years; certainly since the 1960s. The problems are not new, coming from a time before it was fashionable to record boulder problems (if anyone has any traditional names please get in touch).

A top spot giving some of the best “do-able” bouldering at Ilkley.

Character: Old quarried holds and chips giving some good technical bouldering.

Aspect: South facing; often a sun-trap. It can be windy, but is often dry when other bits of Ilkley are damp.

Approach: This quarry lies behind Olicana Buttress and is obvious on the walk from the Cow and Calf to the Rocky valley.



From left to right:

1) 4b Boulder Step-Off

Climb the block and step off it to finish. It can be made easier by starting on the block.

2) V1

Ripples to quarried flakes beside the block.

3) V2

As for problem 2, but avoid the big ledge by a long reach to the right.

3a) V3 A stricter eliminate using only the small layaway edges. Easier with right or left footholds.

4) Project

Up the scoop, then straight up.

The next three problems all centre on the chipped jug between the overhung lower wall and the upper slab. They share a common difficult finish up the head wall:

5) V4 Ilkley Bar Kid

Technical moves up the scoop to layaways, then left to the chipped jug. Finish direct.

6) V5 Steven Seagal

Hard moves or a jump lead to the hold on the lip. Sort your feet out and grab the chipped jug on the left. Finish direct. A truly direct version would be even harder. (F.A. Andy Jack)

7) V4? Low Crosser

Traverse left from the right arête to the jug, then up.

8) V3 Right Face

Use polished holds and the chipped arête to make a committing move to the ramp.

9) V3 High Crosser

The same initial moves as 8, then make a delicate traverse left from the ramp to the ledge on the left. Feels like a route.

10) V1 Big Crack

Use the crack to gain the ramp on the left.

11) V7+ Chuck Norris

Use flakes and undercuts. Named because “it’s harder than Steven Seagal”. (F.A. Neil Sugden & Andy Jack)

12) V1 Next Crack

Layback to a grotty finish. Can also be done by bridging on chips at the same grade.

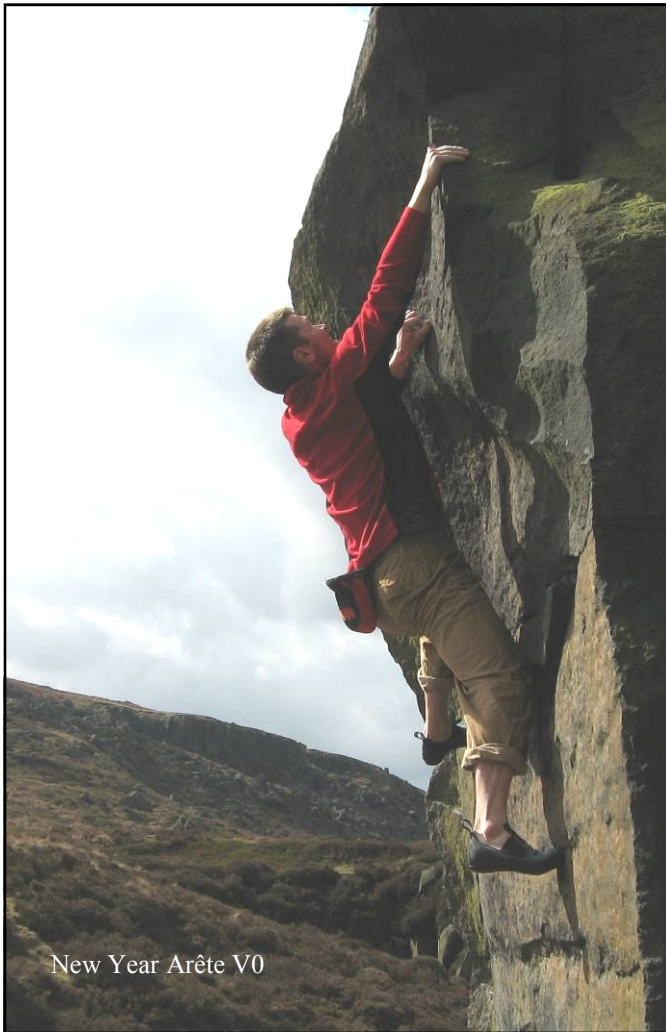
The side wall beside the graffiti daubed slab:

13) V0 Big Flake Wall

The centre crack of the side wall.

14) V1 Arête Left

Including the holds on the left wall.



New Year Arête V0

The next problems climb the chipped slab adorned by a modern fertility symbol. Take care with the friable top section:

15) V2 Arête Right

Wobble up using an undercut and the edge. Harder for the short.

16) V2 Blue Cock Wall

Make a difficult move to stand on the rock scar. Use the chips.

17) V2 Chips Today

Chips and crimps straight up the wall above the undercut.

18) V1 Chips Arête

The chipped arête on the slab side. Harder than it looks.

The next group are on the small overhanging wall at the right end of the quarry:

19) V3 Overhanging Arête

A strict eliminate using holds near the arête to the ledge.

20) V2

The overhanging wall eliminating the right arête - superb.

21) V0 New Year Arête

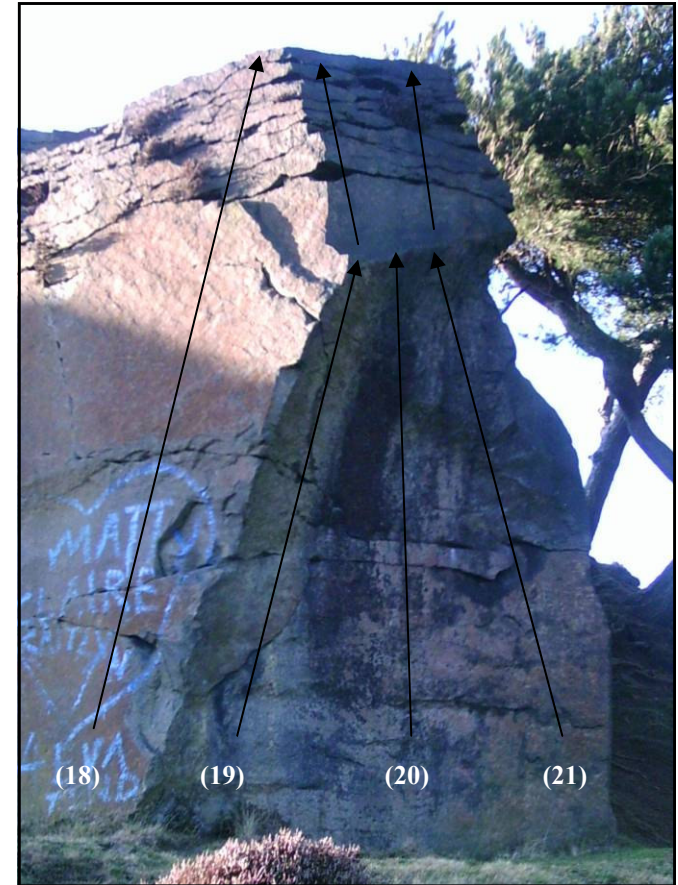
Climb the overhanging end wall using everything.

Round the corner is a green, but easy slab:

22) 4a Green Wall

Up the stepped wall to the left.

Hope you enjoy these problems — please feedback on the grades.



Left: Looks bad on the precious grit, but could be a modern art masterpiece.

