

The Swastika Stones NGR 095470

Situation and character

The crag lies just outside Ilkley and occupies a pleasant open aspect on Addingham Moorside overlooking the Wharfe Valley. The crag consists of a diminutive edge and surrounding blocks. Despite being north facing the crag dries quickly and in general the landings to problems are good. The style of climbing is varied on slabs, arêtes with one or two roofs thrown in.

Access and approach

There appears to be no problems with access, judging by the regular stream of pilgrims who visit the rocks to view the Swastika Stone itself. The easiest approach is to leave the centre of Ilkley on the A65, just before leaving the town itself, turn left into Victoria road. Follow the road up the hill to the crossroads. Turn right onto Grove road and follow this for about a kilometre until a dead end sign is reached. Park here and follow the well-marked footpath up through the woods alongside the wall. A gate leads through the wall and the crag is obvious. About ten minutes from the parking spot.

The Bouldering Circuit

Specific grades of the problems have been purposefully omitted until an accurate consensus can be obtained. My own feelings suggest that the current circuit contains problems in the range VO — V8, UK tech grades 4c — 6c. Anyway it's probably more fun for people to explore for themselves.

Some of the problems look deceptively easy from below and rather than leaving people completely 'in the dark' about what to expect in terms of difficulty, I have provided a very broad and subjective indicator where;

E = Easy (VO ish)
M = Moderate (V2 ish)
H = Hard (V3 +)

P = Project still awaiting *The Send*

Good problems have been highlighted number of the problem relates to those indicated on the topo

1. M. The wall 1 m right of the L arete on small edges. No big holds on the left.
2. **M Hard Wall.** The wall 1m left of the R arete on crimps.
3. E The arete on its left side.
4. **E Easy Arete.** The arete on its R side is a little harder.
5. H The centre of the slab on pebbles and smears
6. M The RH side of the slab using pocket. No arete
7. **M Harris's Slab.** The slab left of the arete is good, but feels scary
8. E The slabby arete.
- 8b. E The other side of the arete SD start
9. M Eliminate slab. The centre of the slab eliminating the rounded arete up and right
10. E Highball arete. The obvious arete past the big breaks. Other short solos possible.
11. **H Green Wall.** Climb the wall using pebbles and the arete on the R, balancy. A good problem despite a constricted start.
12. **H The Prow.** Bullwork your way up the prow using both aretes. No block for foot.
13. H Start with low undercut with RH, arete with LH pull on and gain hold just below top with difficulty.
14. M SD start. Traverse the lip of the block from L to R.

- 14b. M SD start. Make powerful slappy moves up the vague rib.
- 15.M Harris's Arete.** Technical and better than it looks.
- 16.M Contrived problem. Climb the blunt rib, but rather than going to the top use rounded holds to traverse right and then gain lip of the block.
- 17. H Christmas Day Arete.** Can be climbed in a variety of ways. The classic and most intriguing being statically on its RH side. Height dependant
18. M The wall 2m right of the arete.
- 18a M Start up 16 and then traverse L along the top of the block past the arete rockover onto slab to finish.
- 19. H Barn Door Arete.** Climb the arete on its R to a perplexing finish. Very good.
20. M The wall to the R of the arete via small edges.
21. P The centre of the wall via tiny crimp.
22. P The severely undercut arete
- 23. M Walking the Dog.** Start underneath the roof at the back wall. Pull on then span out L to gain jugs. Tray R along the lip using heel hooks. Power up the blunt nose finishing on the left.
- 23a. H Absconded Dog Extension.** A hard extension to problem 23. Rather than finishing up the blunt nose continue R for 3m on slopers until a difficult slap gains the top of the block
24. P A hard looking problem climbing out of the roof on the R and using slopers and a pocket to gain the top of the block.
25. P SD start, gain the lip of the block and then tray R before mantling through
26. M The small slabby wall using the R arete. Eliminate the foot I edges when starting
- 27. H Jerry's Trav.** Sitting start, traverse the lip of the block leftwards until it is possible to rock onto the slab at the L arete.
28. M Slime Ball Tray. Traverse the block from L to R using the break.
29. M The arete from a sit down start. Various eliminates possible
- 30. H The Megalith.** The arete on its left side using small pocket high up on wall.

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