

Harthill Quarry

O.S. ref. SK 217615 Alt. 120m

by David Simmonite (as per 1996 guide)

An interesting, and seldom-visited quarry, which, in the past, has attracted Joe Brown, Wilf White and Johnny Dawes to add new routes. With minimal approach and super-sunny, seepage-free aspect, it has its good points. However, the rock is a little friable, and the last metre or so of the routes is frequently loose. As such, great care is required. In summer, foliage can get a bit much on certain routes, but its aspect makes it a good winter venue. It is approached easily, from parking at the sharp bend between Elton and the upper parking for Robin Hood's Stride. Park near the water trough, avoiding any obstruction of gates. Follow the track to the quarry in 1 minute. The quarry is owned by the Stanton Estates as part of the Duchy of Lancaster and it is advisable to keep a low profile and not to use the quarry when it is being used for M.A.T.A. motor cycle scrambling meets, which are usually held monthly. A left to right girdle traverse is E3 6a, but has shed sections.

- 1 Barmaster** VS 4c 1986
24m The crack is climbed directly to a finish up a groove.
- 2 Perhaps** VS 4b 1969
30m Climb as for *Pourquoi Pas* to the groove but traverse leftwards to a thin crack. Follow the crack and finish up the flake above.
- 3 Pourquoi Pas** E2 6a 1970s/1984
30m Start just to the left, under the nose of *Grovel Over*. Climb ledges and an obvious groove. Move leftwards to finish up the groove above.
- 4 Grovel Over** VS 4c 1969
27m Climb the cracks and corner to a ledge. Step leftwards and climb the outside of the nose to finish.
- 5 The Aorta** VS 4c 1982
18m Climb the curving crack.

- 6 Grip** HVS 5a 1981
25m A roof is cut on its left-hand edge by a blatant fist-crack trending rightwards. Climb the crack.
- 7 Dolmen Groove** HVS 5a 1986
24m Ascend the groove to the right of *Grip*.
- 8 Trial Master** HVS4c 1986
22m Climb the wall to reach the thin crack in the top slab. Finish up this.
- 9 Dune Rider** E2 5b 1986
22m From the start of *The Duke*, climb the arête above to a ledge on the right and continue up the right-hand wall to a second ledge. Follow the steep arête above until a move leftwards leads to a finishing crack.
- 10 The Duke** VS 4c 1983
18m In the next recess to the left is a wall with a small cave at mid-height. Start on the left-hand edge of the wall and traverse diagonally rightwards to gain a crack directly below the cave. Climb into the cave and finish up the crack above.
- 11 Kata** E1 6a 1984
8m Climb the vague rib to finish at the same ledge.
- 12 Tender Kisses** E3 6a 1969
8m On the left of the overhung recess is a short arête with a thin diagonal crack to its right. Use the arête and crack for six metres, then move leftwards with difficulty to a ledge. Escape leftwards.
- 13 Demented Dentist** E3 6a ★ 1984
30m This follows a fine overhanging groove in the centre of the large overhung recess. Move rightwards under the roof (peg) to a sloping ledge on the arête. A diagonal traverse line to the right reaches *Brown and White's* final corner crack.
- 14 Thumper the Rabbit** E4 6c ★ 1986
30m The steeply overhanging crack on the right-hand side of the recess is climbed with great difficulty to a ledge. Two pegs and an in-situ wire protect. Finish up *Brown and White*.
- 15 Afterbird** HVS 5b 1985
30m Start in the recess just to the right of *Demented*

Dentist. Climb the overhanging rib on the right and traverse rightwards to the base of a thin crack. Climb this to the cave/scoop (belay of *Brown and White*) and finish over its roof via another thin crack.

- 16 Brown and White** HVS 5a,4c 1957
1 14m Gain *Lichen Arête* and traverse leftwards behind a tree to climb a groove up to an orange cave/scoop. Belay.
2 16m Move 3m to the left and climb a corner crack past a small sapling. Move rightwards at the top.
- 17 Lichen Arête** HVS 5a 1984
28m Climb up shot-hole grooves just left of the arête to a good ledge. Climb the groove on the left for three metres before stepping rightwards on to the nose of the arête. Follow the arête until a step leftwards gains a thin crack to finish.
- 18 Buffalo Bill** HVS 5a, 5b ★ 1983
1 13m Three metres left of the corner is a large overhanging flake supported by an old peg. Climb the groove past the peg to traverse under the flake and go up the wall above to a small ledge and nut belay under a roof.
2 17m Bridge up the corner under the roof to move rightwards to a widening crack. Step leftwards to finish.
- 19 The Wender** VS 5a 1969
28m The large corner above the rubbish tip. Climb the corner directly until it is possible to move leftwards through an overhang to finish. The route is now loose and slightly harder since the loss of its bottom half. Not recommended.
- 20 Duckhams** HVS 5a 1983
22m Start above a small square recess at the foot of the rock, seven metres to the left of *Bill Bloore*. Climb a thin crack over an overlap moving leftwards to finish up a corner. A pleasant climb.
- 21 Prince of Thieves** E1 5b ★ 1991
22m Two metres to the left of *Bill Bloore*, and to the left of the recess, is a corner-crack. Climb the corner for seven metres until a difficult step leftwards can be made on to the nose below the slab. From a standing position on this, gain the leftwards-slanting crack in the slab above to finish.

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- 22 Bill Bloore** HVS 5b 1983
25m Four metres to the left of the arête, and to the right of a recess, is an obvious crack. Climb the crack until a traverse rightwards for two metres gains a thin finger-crack splitting the wall above. Finish up this with difficulty.
- 23 Buddha Mouth, Snake Mind** E4 6b ★ 1984
25m Two metres to the left is an imposing sharp-edged arête. Start as for *Bill Bloore* in the cracks to the left of the arête. Hand-traverse past the thin finger-crack of that route to gain the arête at half-height. Layback precariously up the left-hand side of the arête to reach good holds high on the left.
- 24 Yellow John** HS 4b 1983
20m Climb a corner crack and traverse rightwards below an overlap for six metres to finish at the rose-hip bush.
- 25 Rosehip** VS 4c 1983
18m Two metres left of the shot-hole is a blunt arête. Climb this, moving rightwards above the overlap to finish at a rosehip bush.
- 26 Game for a Laugh** HVS 5b 1983
18m From a single shot-hole in an orange wall, above which is a pod, gain the pod with a struggle and follow the crack above to finish directly.
- 27 Like a Good Turkish Wife** VS 4c 1991
16m Ascend the chockstone-filled crack until twin cracks are reached. Climb these using a rightwards-sloping ramp to the overhang. Traverse leftwards to finish.
- 28 The Bogmaler** HVS 5b 1991
15m Three metres left of the corner is a V-shaped recess. Climb into this and leave it strenuously using the crack above. At the overhang traverse rightwards to finish. Worthwhile climbing through the overhang via an obvious weakness gives a loose finish at E1, but the technical crux is still the crack.
- 29 Why Bother** HVD 1991
10m Climb the corner to the small roof, then traverse rightwards passing a gorse bush to finish. Five metres to the right is *Don't*, VD, (1991). This follows the blocky rib and slab above.

Harthill Quarry First Ascents

1957 May Brown and White Wilf White, Joe Brown, Nat Allen **1969 The Wender, Grovel Over** T M Clarke, Tom Corker. **Perhaps** Tom Corker, Chris Worthy, Colin Peters **1970s Pourquoi Pas** (2pts) Ballard, Chris Worthy, Tom Corker **1981 Aug. Grip** Gary Gibson, Alison Hargreaves, Richard Hargreaves. **1982 March 21 The Aorta** Chris Calow. **1983 May 8** Yellow John Terry Gifford, Norman Elliott, David Craig **1983 Bill Bloore, Rosehip, Duckhamsn, Buffalo Bill** various combinations of Steve Wigmore, Martin Heath, Chris Hope Bill Bloore is the name of the landlord of the pub in Elton **Game for a Laugh** Bill Wintrip **1984 Lichen Arête** Chris Hope, Steve Wigmore **Buddha Mouth, Snake Mind** Paul Mitchell **Demented Dentist** Andy Barker, Paul Mitchell **Kata, Tender Kisses** Paul Mitchell **Pourquoi Pas** Ian Parsons FFA of Pourquoi **1985 Afterbird** Chris Hope, Martin Heath Girdle Traverse Steve Wigmore, Chris Hope **1986 Feb. 23 Thumper the Rabbit** Johnny Dawes **May Dolmen Groove, Barmaster** Tom Bolger, Chris Hope June **Dune Rider** Steve Wigmore **June Trial Master** Tom Bolger, Steve Wigmore **1991 Like a Good Turkish Wife** Roy Bennett, Tim Usherwood, David Simmonite **The Bogmailer** David Simmonite, Tim Usherwood **Why Bother** Tim Usherwood, David Simmonite, Roy Bennett **Don't** David Simmonite **Prince of Thieves** David Simmonite, Roy Bennett