

Duke's Quarry

by Reuben Brown

Duke's Quarry is a green frog that one day may turn into a handsome prince. Despite many of the routes lying under a coating of filth, this dark and towering crag should be on every gritstoner's tick list, if only for its Great Crack. Beyond this much celebrated route lies a collection of unloved but compelling climbs, saving themselves for lovers of adventure and obscurity, or for a time when the trees and rain decide to head elsewhere.

Conditions and aspect: A damp quarry but not a lost cause. Reasonable conditions are largely dependant on long-term trends in the weather, with late summer and autumn being the best times to visit. Other times of the year can be worthwhile, but the dense tree canopy means early summer days are often disappointingly humid. The northern (left) end of the quarry is the most likely to be climbable, while the walls further right can be so damp they're best when frozen.

Routes and bouldering: A venue of strong lines, many good cracks and seams split the quarry's expansive sheets of vertical and generally sound gritstone. Some friable rock, particularly in the thinner cracks, has led to the use of pegs on the harder climbs; be wary of unreliable nuts. The lack of any clean rock at ground level makes bouldering against the odds. As for Robin Hood, treat grades with suspicion.

Parking and Approach: See map on page 443. The quarry lies 200m north of Whatstandwell on the road to Holloway. Parking is available at a rough pull-in opposite a path into the quarry; this heads right between wooden posts and reaches the crag in a couple of minutes. Whatstandwell is well-served by trains and buses.

Access: The quarry is managed for nature conservation and quiet enjoyment, so best behaviour please.

Red Wall: The steep, fiery-hued wall contains a small number of worthwhile and adventurous mid-grade outings, all challenging at their respective grades.

OS Ref. SK 334545 Alt. 100m

1 Ruby Anniversary E2 5c 1977

17m Climb directly up the wall 3m left of *The Blusher*, arrange gear in a crack below the obvious horizontal break, the make committing moves slightly right and up to a good hand-ledge. Further bold moves left and then directly up reach a wire placement in a notch on the arete. Remain on the face, moving left diagonally to finish up a short corner to the left of a sapling. High in the grade, a confident approach needed.

2 The Blusher HVS 5a c.1977

17m Gain the flake-crack in the blunt arête and follow it to a horizontal break; move right and finish up a shallow groove.

3 Red Wall Direct VS 5a 1963

17m Climb the fine crack in the centre of the red wall to a prickly finish.

4 Red Wall VS 4c 1963

17m Follow the adjacent crack to the overhang; move left to join (and finish up) *Red Wall Direct*. Many of the ants to be found in Dukes Quarry seem to regard this climb as home

5 Hornswoggle Flake S 1963

20m Climb the shallow corner to the right. Finish leftwards.

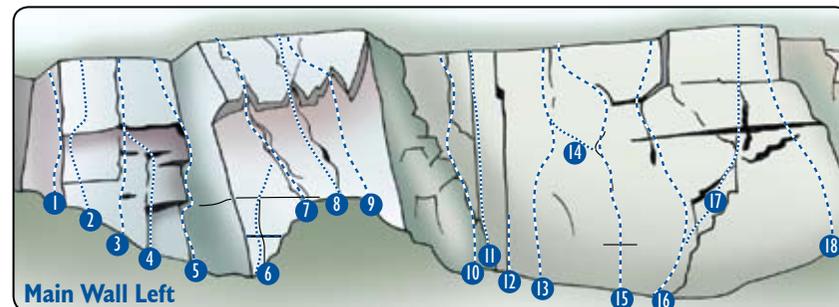
Trident Slab: The slabbiest buttress in the quarry features a band of overhangs breached by three distinct lines of weakness.

6 Pale Object Moving Fast E5 6b 1984

25m Gain the lower end of a ramp and follow this up leftwards to a thin crack. Make crux moves up this, past a peg (removed), step right at an overlap and pull up to join *Left Tine*. Finish up this.

7 Left Tine HVS 5a ● 1963

20m Follow a line of flakes up leftwards into the left-hand groove. Climb this and the capping over-



hang to finish up the slabs above.

8 Central Tine VS 4b 1963

20m The overhang's central weakness has fine positions and is a good introduction to the quarry. Take great care with wedged blocks at the crux

9 Right Tine S 4a † 1963

20m Gain the right-hand groove via a wall and a slab, directly below. Climb the groove to its top and pull up left to join the last few moves of *Central Tine*.

Barley Mow, VD (1963), and Ken's Corner, VS (1963), both climbed dirt to the right.

Great Wall: A fine off-vertical sheet of rock that is home to some compelling cracks and fearsome face routes. Most climbs deserve stars when clean, although sadly this is rare for all but *Great Crack*

10 The Duke HVS † 1977

20m The flake just to the right leads, via a scoop, to a vegetated finishing crack.

11 Woodlice Crack VS 4c 1963

25m The left-hand crack is generally cleaner than the previous routes, being rather more popular. However, if neglected, it soon regains its foliage and its inhabitants.

12 Great Crack HVS 5a ★★★ 1961

25m Great! The classic crack is even better than it looks. An ever greasy crux just above the ground only serves to send away the unworthy. Others will press on to find a miles-long crack that keeps giv-

ing good jams in return for as much medium-sized gear as can be carried. A route for the patient VS leader.

13 Dharma E7 6c ★★★ 1986

27m Dawes' grand addition to the quarry scorches up the blank-looking wall to the right of *Great Crack*. Start just right of *Great Crack*. Climb up slightly then traverse right then up past a peg to a resting place and (hopefully) a clutch of pegs. Gird your loins and strike boldly up the wall above, aiming for a vague scoop and narrow ledge (possible hand-placed peg at left-hand end). Traverse rightwards to a flake and finish more easily. Some pegs may be missing and cleaning will be needed.

14 Dark Deeds in Dingly Dale E4 6b 2003

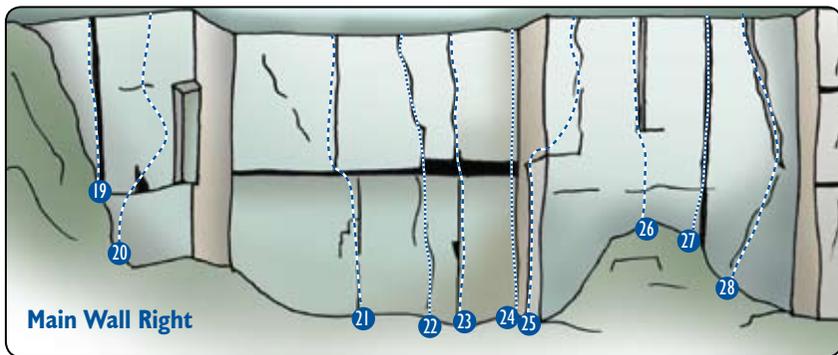
20m Climb *Magister Ludi* to where it moves up and right towards the belay ledge; at this point make a very delicate traverse left into the upper section of Dharma and finish up this.

15 Magister Ludi E3 5c 1977

33m A fingery start and serious mid-section characterise this fine climb; for some years it was the hardest in the quarry. Possibly best climbed as one pitch.

1 20m Climb a thin crack and a wall to gain a narrow ledge. Traverse left for two metres and move up to some fragile flakes; follow these for a few metres to a ledge. Belay or continue.

2 13m From the left-hand edge of the ledge follow a shallow rightwards-facing corner to another, narrower ledge. Move left to the final crack of Dharma and finish up this.



Main Wall Right

16 Clarastirra HVS 5a 1963
29m Compelling but intimidating route. Starting below the impressive crack, climb the lower wall to a ledge and a tree. Continue straight up for a few metres and move left to a sapling at the base of the crack. Follow this to finish rightwards up a short groove.

17 Earth Bound HVS 5a 1977
29m Follow *Clarastirra* to the tree, then move up rightwards past another tree to a wide crack. Climb this and the wall above.

18 Maffi Mhuk HVS 5a 1977
29m Climb a crack to the ledge, then swing left on the dubious-looking block. Proceed with relief up the wall above to finish.

Overgrown earth to the right once held two severes: **Rusty Slab** and **Corrosion Groove** (1963).

19 Black Crack S 1963
13m The steep wall to the right contains a tree-filled crack. Climb it, starting from the left.

20 Death on a Stick E5 6b 1984
13m The impressive wall right of *Black Crack* became less contrived and slightly more serious when the adjacent climb (*The Whiffler*) fell down. Ascend diagonally rightwards to a niche and continue in the same line to an arête. Traverse back leftwards to some narrow ledges and move up to clip a peg at full stretch. Climb to the right of the peg (crux) to the top. It may well be sensible to protect the moves to

the peg with a runner in the tree on *Black Crack*.

Recess Wall: Dark, dripping, and awesome, *Recess Wall* is the grandest but most repelling of the quarry's features, its soaring routes lost for the present to a constant cascade of water.

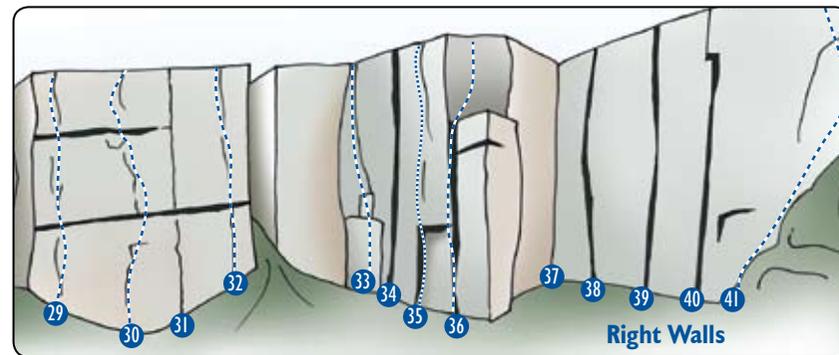
21 Long-Nosed Hawk Nasty E5 6a 1984
23m Float up the initial crack to the wide break. Move left for two metres and follow the upper crack (crux) to reach the top.

22 The Dragon Whose Fire Went Out E4 6a 1984
23m Follow parallel thin cracks to gain a ledge below a roof. Climb over the roof at its left-hand end to gain easier ground leading to a tree. Finish up a fine layback-flake with the crux on the last move.

23 T.L. E4 5c 1984
23m Start at the low pedestal and follow the awkward jamming crack to a cave. Climb into the apex of the cave and pull out leftwards past a peg on to the upper wall. The final crack leads with continuous interest to a finish on the right.

24 Great Corner E1 5c 1961
23m The right-hand corner of *Recess Wall* is rarely in condition, even though it probably carries slightly less drainage than in the past. Climb it, if you must.

25 Blackberry Way VS † 1977
23m The steep crack in the right-hand wall of the corner leads to a ledge. From the right-hand end of



Right Walls

the ledge, move around the arête into a dirty groove and follow this (or climb the wall to its left) to a vegetated finish.

Waterfall Wall: This contains the area's one winter-only route, as well as the obligatory collection of fern-infested outings.

26 Mr Spock E2 5c 1988
13m Approach the slim corner right of the upper section of *Blackberry Way*, either by abseil, or by an unstable scramble. Climb past two pegs to an abseil station and lower off in triumph.

27 The Streaker E2 5c pre-1981
23m Climb the relatively easy, but often greasy, lower section directly below the main crack to reach a break. Follow the crack strenuously through a bulge to gain the top.

28 Icicle Repair Ma-n Scottish V † post-1985
23m Climb more or less straight up to two pegs in a leftwards-slanting groove/overlap high on the right-hand side of the wall. A seasonal streak of ice left of the pegs leads to an awkward exit on to frozen mud at the top.

Overgrown to the right were: a **Direct Start** (1970-81), and **Pillar Ramble** (1963).

Mr Franik's Wall: Another off-vertical expanse of griststone, this time with a handful of the Peak's least frequented best routes. All are rated, although a good dry spell and a spot of brushing will be required.

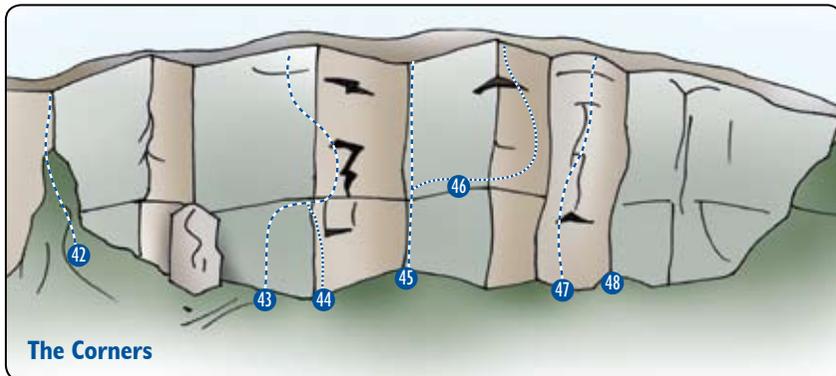
The first 3 routes relied on now-missing pegs.

29 Mr Franik E5 6b ★ 1987
19m The hardest and best of the cracks in the quarry. Follow the left-hand crack passing three pegs (removed) until some moves up and right gain a break. Pull on to the wall above, peg (removed), and trend up left to a break in the overlap. Surmount this (crux) and follow some thin cracks to the top.

30 Repo Man E5 6b ★ 1987/89
19m Start four metres to the right of *Mr Franik* at a small rightwards-facing groove. Climb the groove past a peg (removed) to a break and a very poor in-situ peg (camming devices are better). Step right to climb up past a small niche and a thin crack to a peg, from which a long move up gains a somewhat unnatural jug and another peg. Span left to a similar hold and follow a thin crack above past a final peg and the remains of an unnecessary bolt to reach the top.

31 Get Rich Quick E5 6b ★ 1988
15m The next crack, three metres to the right of *Repo Man*, originally contained four pegs all are currently missing. Start behind the tree and climb the crack to a rest at a break. Pull up to the next section of the crack which leads to a tiring position in a niche. Surmount the overlap (crux) and follow the final, thin crack to a move right and an earthy mantelshelf finish.

32 Destroying Angel E1 5b ★ c.1977
15m The right-hand crack of the wall combines a



crumbling start and a slightly worrying finish with excellent climbing in-between. Immediately to the right is a square-cut gully, beyond which an unclimbed wall leads to the corner dividing the quarry's main face from the mossy north-facing end wall.

The Southern Walls: The faces at the right-hand end of the quarry face north and are consequently all rather vegetated.

33 Anarchy VS 4c c.1977
15m From a dirty ledge right of the corner, climb on to a large block at the base of a crack; this leads to a groove and the top.

34 Bel Amour VS 4c c.1977
15m From the pedestal just right of Anarchy, lay-back up the crack to better holds and the finish.

35 Vincent Vole Likes Smelly Shoes E4 6a 1984
15m A route not to be sniffed at. Start below a blunt arête up the bank to the right. Climb a thin crack in the arête past a peg to an easier finish.

36 Hen Groove S 1963
15m Just left of the square-cut arête to the right is a groove; follow this to a ledge and climb the dirty wall above.

37 Kimberley Corner HS 4b c.1977
10m The corner to the right is a watercourse and as such is at its best either during a cold winter or a drought.

38 Slippery Flake VS 4b 1963
10m Ascend the obvious (slippery) flake to the right.

39 Shipstones Shrine VS 4b c.1977
10m Follow the crack immediately to the right to a shallow finishing corner.

40 Straight Crack S 4a 1963
10m Starting just right of a tree, gain and climb the clean-cut jamming crack.

41 Hop, Step and Jump VD 1963
10m Ascend a series of ledges on the right. Move left to finish above the overgrown corner.

The Corners: A series of short walls, corners and arêtes, with some worthwhile lower-grade outings.

42 Yobbo S 1963
10m Struggle up the botanically interesting corner to the right.

43 Push Off VS 4c 1963
10m Right of *Yobbo* is a shallow groove which is followed to a break. Hand-traverse around the arête to a tree and climb up and back around the arête to finish.

44 Lone Arête S 1963
10m Climb the stepped lower section of the arête to the tree on *Push Off*. Finish up *Push Off*.

45 Trog S 1963
10m The corner to the right.

46 Round the Twist S 1985-94
10m From 4m up *Trog*, hand-traverse rightwards around the arête to a ledge. Move up and right to another ledge from which a short corner leads to the top.

47 Sweet and Sour VS 4b c.1977
10m Just to the right of the final corner of *Round the Twist* is a jutting block; start below and slightly to its left. Climb a short crack to a ledge. Traverse right, under the block, and move up past it to finish rightwards.

48 Right-Hand Corner VS 4b ★ 1963
10m The wide corner crack.

Duke's Quarry First Ascents

- 1961 **Great Corner, Great Crack** Des Hadlum
- 1963 **Rusty Slab** Unknown **Left Tine** John Gerard
- Clarastirra, Right-Hand Corner** Ian Conway **Slippery Flake, The Whiffler** Brian Palmer **Woodlice Crack** Chris Jackson
- 1977 **The Duke** Tom Proctor, Barry Dixon **Earth Bound, Magister Ludi, Maffi Mhuk** Len Pearson, Sean Golden
- Blackberry Way** Brian Hartshorn
- c.1977 **Myrtal Seven Pins, The Blusher, Destroying Angel, Anarchy, Kimberley Corner, Shipstones Shrine, Sweet and Sour** Len Pearson, Sean Golden **Bel Amour** Keith Myhill
- 1984 **Death on a Stick, The Dragon Whose Fire Went Out, Long-nosed Hawk Nasty, Pale Object Moving Fast, T.L., Vincent Vole Likes Smelly Shoes** Paul Mitchell, Andy Barker
- 1986 Feb. 24 **Dharma** Johnny Dawes (unseconded) This was Dawes' third consecutive day of hard new routeing, having already despatched Kaluza-Klein and Thumper the Rabbit.
- 1987 **Mr Franik** Johnny Shepherd, Malcolm Taylor **Repo Man** Gary Gibson Climbed with a bolt and called *Everybody Loves You When You're Dead*. Led without the bolt in 1989.
- 1988 **Mr Spock** Mark Pretty, John Hart **Get Rich Quick** Mark Pretty, Allen Williams, Paul Evans
- 1989 **Repo Man** Seb Grieve First boltless ascent.
- 1997 **Ruby Anniversary** Nick Taylor
- 2003 **Dark Deeds in Dingy Dale** Mark Pretty