

Stanton Moor Quarries

by David Simmonite (as per 1996 guide)

OS Ref SK 252636 alt. 210m

The quarries are situated on the eastern side of Stanton Moor, just down from the main plateau and approximately 8km south of Bakewell. The rock in both quarries is of variable quality gritstone and some routes are vegetated. The rock of the Yellow Corner area tends to be better and dries out quicker than that of the Main Face, but both areas catch the morning sun.

Parking and Approach

Approaching from the north, take the A6 out of Bakewell and turn right along a road sign-posted Congreave 1/2 mile, just before the dual carriageway starts. Follow this road, passing through Pilhough, until after 3km it is joined by the Stanton-in-Peak road which cuts back sharply on the right. Two hundred metres past this junction a small track, blocked by two large boulders, leads into the woods on the right. Cars may be parked in the lay-by just before the track. Follow the track to an old millwheel works; the main face is on the right.

The easiest approach to the Yellow Corner area (O.S. ref. SK 251638) is to walk up the track directly behind the derelict millwheel works, keeping to the right and passing a sign to Stanton Moor Edge, until the Yellow Corner is reached on the left.

To reach the top of the Main Face, instead of turning left to Yellow Corner, follow the indefinite track on the right for approximately fifty metres, until a gully on the right is reached; this takes you above the Main Face. Alternatively, one can park several hundred metres up the Stanton-in-Peak road in a gateway, just past a footpath sign. Follow the footpath alongside a wall until a broad track leads into a wood on the left, this takes you past a fallen tree to the bay of Yellow Corner.

Approaching from the south, take the B5057 out of Darley Dale to Darley Bridge, turn right along the road to Stanton Lees. The small track is several hundred metres north of that village, on the left.

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The quarry is owned by Stoke Hall Quarries and is occasionally used by a shooting club. At the time of writing, there appear to be no access problems.

History

The first route to be climbed in the quarries, in the 1950s, was The Long Crack which required liberal amounts of aid by an unknown party. No further development took place until 1971 when, during April and May, Tom Proctor, Chris Jackson, and Bob Conway cleaned and climbed the majority of the routes, including the long expedition of The Traverse and the impressive Vampire. During that same year Dave Gregory and Geoff Milburn made several visits and climbed the Yellow Corner routes thinking them to be new. The quarry remained dormant until 1984 when Phil Dickens took on the huge task of clearing the quarries of vegetation (felling a couple of trees in the process) and unearthed The Shield and the rather better Mans Country. The following year, Karl Telfer, with his brother Graham, and Dickens, staged A Grand Affair, a devious route taking a fine-looking arête (in the Yellow Corner area) just begging to be climbed.

Main Face

At the left-hand side of the Main Face, and at mid-height, is a superb and unclimbed horizontal crack. At the right-hand end of the face is a clean crack which leads up to a broken band. This is the start to The Traverse, or an easier start to Bullitt. All the routes, with exception of The Long Crack, Mans Country and The Shield are overgrown at present.

The best DESCENT from the Main Face is by abseil, otherwise continue to the top of the crag and head down to reach the path from Yellow Corner.

- I The Traverse** HVS 4c, 4c, 5a, 4c 1971
110m Climb the crack directly to a peg belay.
230m Follow the ramps down leftwards crossing

Bullitt. A short hand-traverse leads to a niche above a thin crack. A long stride leftwards allows the continuation of the ramp to be reached. Continue past another small niche and step down on to a ledge on the edge of a large flake. Traverse into the corner of *Long Crack*.

3 13m Continue as for the remainder of pitch one of *The Long Crack*.

4 13m Pitch two of *The Long Crack*.

Seven metres to the left of the start of The Traverse is a thin crack, just to the left of which are two old quarry drills embedded in the rock at a height of seven metres.

2 Bullitt HVS 5b, 5a, - 1971

122m Climb the crack from the bottom of the pit to an awkward landing on the ramp above. Follow the ramp to a peg belay at its right-hand end.

2 15m Move up and rightwards past a small tree to below an overhang. Mantelshelf on to the soft band, peg, then traverse leftwards to a corner. Ascend the corner to a tree belay.

3 16m Climb the left-hand edge of the wall behind the tree.

3 Man's Country E1 5b 1984

30m The thin crack to the left of *Bullitt*. Start below the crack and climb up rightwards to a flake just left of the crack of *Bullitt*. Traverse leftwards, using a slot, to the bottom of the crack and follow it to the large overhung ledge at the top. Traverse leftwards to a tree and peg belay. Abseil off.

4 The Shield E2 5b 1984

33m Start two metres to the left of *Man's Country*, at a slight arête. Climb up this and move up and leftwards to climb shallow grooves to the base of a shield of rock. Climb this on the left-hand side to its top and move rightwards for three metres to follow a crack, passing some old pegs, to the ledge and belay of *Man's Country*. Abseil off.

5 The Long Crack HVS 5a, 4c 1950s/1971

53m Start two metres to the left of *The Shield*, just to the right of the lowest part of the face.

140m Climb a crack up to a series of small ledges (peg). Traverse leftwards into a corner which is climbed to a soft band of rock. Gain the horizontal

crack and traverse leftwards on loose rock (peg) to belay on trees.

2 13m Climb a short corner, move rightwards and climb directly to the top. An unpleasant pitch. The second pitch can be avoided by abseiling off from the trees at the top of the first pitch.

To the left is a large unclimbed wall and seventeen metres beyond The Long Crack is the start of:

6 Catch 22 HVS 5b, 5c 1971

40m Start just to the right of the left-hand edge of the Main Face.

1 27m Climb the overgrown cracks with difficulty to a tree belay on the right.

2 23m Climb a short corner to a crack which is followed until it is possible to move on to an arête near the top. Tree belay.

Yellow Corner

This bay gets the morning sun and it dries fairly quickly. It is worth a short visit for the impressive cracks. Most of the routes terminate at a huge platform with a tree belay. The way down is on the right (as one faces the crag), or by abseil. The main feature of this area is a huge corner. Twenty metres left of this, beyond an impressive unclimbed wall, is a steep corner crack:

7 Little Cuthbert VS 4c 1971

10m Climb the crack in the corner.

8 Shytorque Crack HVS 5a 1971

23m Starting just left of the main corner, climb the loose blocky crack moving rightwards past an oak tree to a platform.

9 Greymalkin E2 5c 1971

22m The main corner gives a desperate struggle with a grotty finish.

10 Warlock E1 5b 1971

20m Start up a crack seven metres to the right of the main corner. Move leftwards and follow the main crack to the top.

11 Vampire E2 5c 1971

23m The impressive crack five metres to the right, is

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gained by a hard traverse from the left. Continue to the top by laybacking and jamming. Strenuous but well-protected after the start.

12 Broken Hearts E5 6b 1997

22m The arête to the right. Start on the pedestal and boulder up to the break, step right around the arête and slap up to an edge (crux). Clip the peg on the left and another hard move leads to the jug on *A Grand Affair*. Finish up this.

13 A Grand Affair E4 6a 1985

25m This takes the striking, sharp arête. Start two metres to the right of the arête. Climb the wall for nine metres to a break. Traverse leftwards past a peg and swing round the arête which is climbed to the top passing a tied-off peg.

14 Faithless E4 6a 1998

20m Follow *A Grand Affair* to its first peg. Move right and up into the obvious slim groove (peg). A hard sequence leads up the groove and wall above leads to a ledge on the arête. Good RP3 or similar in crack below finger slot. Move left and finish boldly up the flake crack.

First Ascents

1950s **The Long Crack** Climbed by persons unknown using a lot of aid.

1971 Apr **Catch 22** Chris Jackson, Tom Proctor *This was the beginning of two months of intense development, in which they climbed most of the routes in the quarry.*

1971 Apr 18 **Bullitt** Tom Proctor, Chris Jackson

1971 May 1 **The Traverse, Warlock** Chris Jackson, Tom Proctor (alt. leads on The Traverse)

1971 May 2 **Vampire** Tom Proctor, Chris Jackson, Bob Conway

1971 May 8 **The Long Crack** Chris Jackson, Tom Proctor The first free ascent.

1971 May 9 **Greymalkin, Little Cuthbert** Bob Conway, Chris Jackson, Tom Proctor

1971 May 9 **Shytorque Crack** Tom Proctor, Bob Conway, Chris Jackson

1984 **Man's Country, The Shield** Phil Dickens (unseconded).

1985 May 6 **A Grand Affair** Karl Telfer, Graham Telfer, Phil Dickens.

1997 **Broken Hearts** Jon Wilson

1998 **Faithless** Jez portman, Jon Wilson