

## Harry's Quarry

O.S. ref. SK024974

The quarry has character not least because of the varied livestock occasionally living beneath the faces; their pens abut the rock in places. The routes are particularly serious for those who second for they must stand their ground against these denizens. One year it will be a vicious cockerel, the following season it may be a disgruntled pig. It may be necessary to descend then ascend routes so as to avoid setting foot on the ground; this is the extra dimension gained through climbing at Harry's.

There is certainly potential for new lines here, and the judicious use of a peg or two might not go amiss. Go have a look, open your mind and take it easy.

**Situation & character:** Opposite the Bull's Head pub in Tintwistle are some 'problem' walls reached through gates in what was the old school playground. Behind these, and higher up, is a smaller version of John Henry Quarry; this is the roughly south facing Harry's Quarry.

**Approaches & Access:** The quarry is entered through a gate from a lane behind the cottages opposite The Bulls Head. The quarry used to be owned by Harry Blackburn at no47, but he has sadly departed this mortal coil and the ownership isn't really all that clear. Those who do not fear livestock enter the quarry at their own risk and will of course shut the gate behind them. Shutting the gate keeps the animals in and, by restricting your chance of a fast retreat, adds to the excitement of the visit.

On the left side of the quarry are good 'problem' walls. To their right, past a grassy knoll, is a 25-foot buttress. The climbs start here, and are described from left to right.

**1 Steam Bones 25 ft HVS 5a (1974)**

Climb the centre of the wall.

**2 Slab Wall 25 ft HS 4b (1974)**

The right-hand side of the wall.

To the right again is a short rib and a square recess with an overhanging right wall:

**3 Piggy 30 ft HVS 5a (1974)**

Ascend the centre of the wall.

**4 Piglet 30 ft VS 4c (1974)**

Six feet to the right, ascend the groove.

The overhanging right wall has a large face to its right. Two climbs start at its centre:

**5 Bark, Bark 30 ft HVS 4c (1974)**

Move leftwards to the arête, with ledges above.

**6 Alsatian Wall 30 ft HVS 5a (1974)**

Climb rightwards on small holds to a sloping ledge high on the right.

Farther to the right is a large steep face with no climbs. Next is the prominent central arête.

**7 Pony's Mane 50 ft HVS 4c \*** (1974)

A long flake crack, 12 feet to the left of the arête, has a steep start.

\*

**8 The Flying Pig 50 ft HVS 5a** (1974)

If starred routes were allowed at Harry's Quarry, this might qualify. Start on the arête and follow cracks past an airy ledge on the arête.

**9 Duck Egg Crack 50 ft HVS 5a** (1974)

To the right of the arête, the long corner-crack also leads past the airy ledge.

**10 Cockcrow 40 ft VS 4c** (1974)

From the start of Duck Egg Crack, go rightwards to ledges and a heathery groove.

Below the ledges on **Cockcrow** is an overhanging corner, and six feet right again is a tall flake buttress:

**11 Horse's Tail 40 ft E1 5a** (1974)

Five feet to the right, climb the right-hand side of the flake past a thin crack to a ledge, then move left to join Cockcrow.

The next climbs are on a projecting buttress over on the far right:

**12 Compound Wall 25 ft S 4a** (1974)

Step off a block and climb the left wall on good holds.

**13 Zacharia 30 ft E1 5b** (1974)

Climb steep zigzag cracks leftwards, with increasing difficulty.

**14 Bridal Wall 30 ft HVS 5a** (1974)

From the right, move up past hollow blocks to the central cracks and the top.

Those considering a visit will be interested in recent rumours of a semi-tame panther said to be occupying the compound. This is not as unlikely as it may seem,- we are a stone's throw from Royston Vasey after all.