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The Limestone Link

Farleton, Dalton & Hutton Roof Bouldering

LAKESBLOC

Introduction

This is a guide is to the wonderfully scenic bouldering areas located on and around the nationally important limestone pavements of Farleton Knot, Dalton Crags and Hutton Roof, all of which flank the famous "Limestone Link" trail.

Most of the bouldering in these areas was originally worked out by John Gaskins

and friends in the 1990's - with the exception of the Farleton and Hutton Roof rights of passage, *The Coil* (1984) and Nick's Traverse (1987). Their efforts left us fine problems such as *New Rose*, *Whiteout*, *Surfer Rosa* and *21st Century Digital Kid*.

The location and descriptions for these few excellent problems was originally described in an On The Edge article of the time and subsequently updated with a basic topo and added to the Cragx.com website article database, in the late nineties.

For along time these basic topos were the only source of documented information to the areas, and these only covered a handful of problems. Here we take up were John Gaskins' old topos left off, re-describing the lines above and documenting many other problems from the era, subsequent additions and even entire areas which have before now not been described in any format.

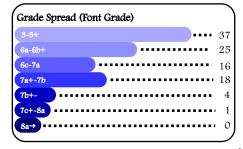
Grades & Stars

This e-guide uses both the Fontainebleau and V-grade grading scale to rate the boulder problems listed, for example 6c+/V5. Remember, grades are a rough guide of difficulty, and body size (height, reach, span etc.) can have a big effect on the relative difficulty of a climb.

Coloured diamonds are shown before each problem to give an idea of difficulty at a glance:

- ♦ Font3 to 4+ ~ V0
- Font5 to 6c+ V1 to V5
- Font7a to 7c+ ~ V6 to V10
- ♦ Font8a to 8c V11 to V15

Stars are used (1 to 3) to highlight climbs of outstanding quality.



Farleton Knott

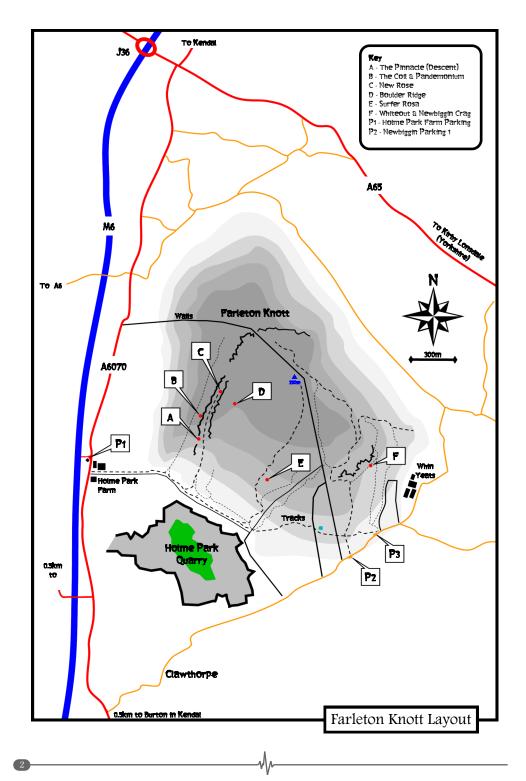
Farleton Knott is a huge expanse of limestone crags, pavements and boulders situated on the eastern side of the M6, 2km south of junction 36.

With the odd exception, the bouldering can be split into two distinct areas, the Main Crag and Newbiggin area. As you would imagine the Crag sector centres around the easily visible long escarpment, facing the motorway to the west. Whilst the Newbiggin sector is situated on the less visible eastern slopes of the hillside.

All the problems listed are hewn from a limestone surpassed in quality by no other UK crag. The climbing is varied in style, from your usual limey edge pulling to some almost Castle Hill style tricep workouts.

Image below: Three stars of the best limestone bouldering Britain has to offer, *New Rose* (7b/V8). © Mick Ryan



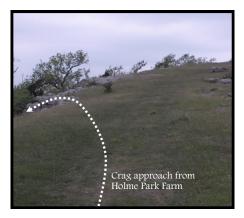


Farleton Knott - Crag Sector

Approach

From junction 36 of the M6 take the eastern exit (A65), almost immediately you come to the Crooklands roundabout. From here take a right turn south (A6070). Follow this for approximately 3km to Holme Park Farm (on the left) and park opposite the farm in the wide entrance to a right turn and in front of a couple of houses. The climbing is a 15-20 minute walk from here.

There are a number of approach methods, however I feel the following method is the easiest for the first time visitor.



Farleton Knott - Crag Sector

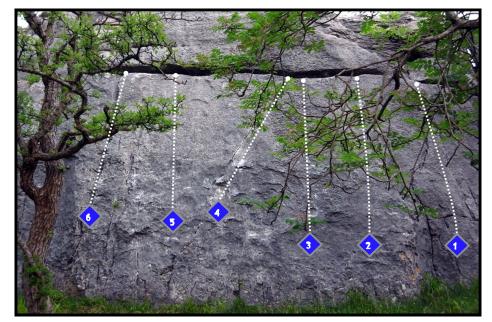
To reach the crag follow the road south for 80m to a bridleway on the left, just south of the farm, signposted "Limestone Link". Follow this through farmyard and up the hillside for 500m to a gate. On the other side of the gate is a "Holme Park Fell" sign and map. Continue on the main track uphill as it veers slightly right for 100m to a gateway, go through the gateway and turn left up onto the plateau and follow the path above the Main Crag, with the Upper Crag to your right. After about 300m it is relatively easy to scramble down the Main Crag - see image below. The Pinnacle is quickly reached (black arrow at the base) and The Coil Sector is a further 100m (north) along the crag.

Problem Names: You may notice a number of established, previously untitled problems have been given names. This is merely as a reference point and no one person is claiming them as FA's. If you're aware that a problem is

more commonly known as something else let us know and we will amend it accordingly.

The Pinnacle (A) Surrounded by numerous decent problems, but essentially non-lines, this standout addition takes the cool arête (black arrow at the start) from sitting to provide a well worthwhile 5+/V1.





Crag Sector - The Coil (B)

(Topo on previous page)

This wall hosts some of the finest crimpy wall climbing on south lakes limestone, and the quality of the rock is matched only by the excellent flat landings. All the lines can be topped out, however as this is a bouldering guide, we'll let you jump off at the break if you so wish.

1) ♦ (3/V0) The crozzley slight arête left of a deep crack.

2) **The Final Frontier** (6c+/V5) Use an in-cut side pull to climb the wall left of the arête. Holds right of the side pull are out. *

3) • The Wrath of Kahn (7b/V8) A tight focussed line which climbs the stunning line of crozzle direct to the break. *

4) \blacklozenge **The Coil** (7a+/V7) Climb the centre of the face via a diagonal crack and holds to the right to the break. Starting with your hands low is slightly harder. ***

5) **The Undiscovered Country** (7c/V9) Climb the wall between the diagonal crack and the deep crack on the left of the crag, via a dynamic move to the break. *

6) \blacklozenge The Family Way (4/V0) The deep layback crack on the left of the face.

7) **Coil Wall Traverse** (7a/V6) Traverse the wall from p6 into and up p2. *

8) \blacklozenge (6c+/V5) Traverse the wall from p1 into and up p6 to finish.

9) \blacklozenge (7a+/V7) Traverse the wall there and back, in either direction.

Image right: Catching the break on the superbly textured rock of *The Wrath of Kahn*, 7b/V8. © Mick Ryan





Farleton Knott - Pandemonium (B)

A few metres left of *The Family Way* there is another high wall dissected by a break and fronted by a tree. This hosts a couple of worthwhile lines.

1) \blacklozenge (6a+/V3) Climb the front of the pillar starting on the right and veering left before hitting the top. Both arêtes are considered out.

2) (6c/V4) Climb the centre of the high wall past a slight overlap and a committing move to the slopey break. Jump off here or finish up the diagonal crack - this is E2/3. A couple of pads are useful on this one.

The next sector is a further few metres to the left and hosts one of the best highballs on limestone!



Farleton Knott ~ Pandemonium (B)

3) Flavkier (3+/V0) The next obvious line of good holds, left of a broken, tree filled groove. Highball!

4) **♦ Pandemonium** (7c+/V10) The undercut wall starts getting very thin after a crozzly edge at 2.5m. Once you have gained as much height as you can on the poor crimps make a dash (or lunge) for the shallow pocket/tilted edge at the top of the wall. Highball! **

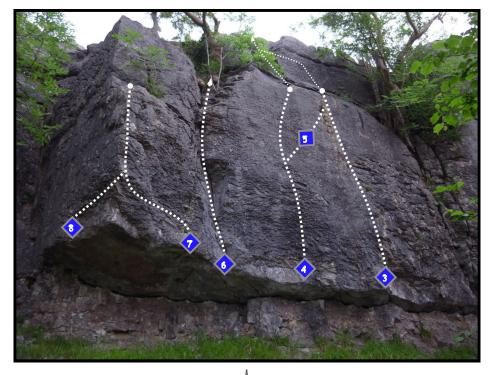
5) **Panda** (7b/V8) A copout RH variant to p4. Climb to half height, before make a disconcerting lunge rightward to the hanging flake/crack and finish up p3. Highball!

6) **Cracker** (4+/V0) the undercut groove is hard to start but eases quickly. Highball!

7) • Prowler RH (6a+/V3) Start on a good low hold 1m right of the prow. Follow holds above the lip leftward to and up the prow/arête.

8) **Prowler LH** (6b/V3) Start on edges 1m right of the corner. Traverse rightward to and up the prow/arête.

Photo left: Jordan Buys dispatching Pandemonium, 7c+/V10. © Jordan Buys



Farleton Knott ~ New Rose (C)

This next area features possibly the best limestone wall problem in the UK and should be visited by all climbers operating in the mid 7's (V7-8). It is situated a further 200m up the crag line (north), on the Upper Tier.

The are dozens of great easier problems on the Upper Tier however we leave the majority of these for you to explore for yourself.

Just before the New Rose block, there is a small bay featuring 3 nice problems.

1) \diamond (5+/VO) SDS Start on the right and follow the lip left then up.

2) \diamond (5/V1) SDS Straight through the small overhang from a bleached hold on the lip.

3) 🔶 (3+/V0) The scooping wall.

The New Rose sector is essentially a block detached from the upper crag, a 50m or so past problem 3.

4) 🔶 The Arête (3/V0) The broken arête.

5) **21st Century Digital Kid** (6a/V2) The slight groove left of the arête is top draw and tricky at the grade. Holds on the arête are out. *

6) • New Rose (7b/V8) The centre of the immaculate wall is thin and a little abrasive. however the moves, line and situation are second to none! Harder for the short. The sitter adds a little extra clout but is still the same grade. ***

7) **J Crack** (3/V0) The j-shaped crack.

8) **Cose Traverse** (6c/V4) Traverse the wall from either p1 or p4. Good finger warm-up for p6.

Farleton Knott ~ Boulder Ridge (D)

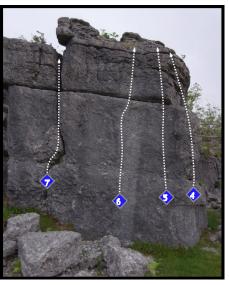
The final noteworthy climbing on the west side of the fell can be found on the ridge a few hundred metres due east of the top of the Upper Tier. Here a line of 10 to 15 blocks runs north to south east, over 400m or so. These offer the most esoteric and far



limestone pavements. Again we leave you to explore these problems for yourself, suffice as to say most of the lines have been climbed before.

and range from 3/VO to 6c + /V5.





Farleton Knott ~ Flakes Problem (D)

Also of note is a line described by John Gaskins on his original topo to the area. I have been unable to find this problem (probably due to poor navigation on my part). For the intrepid explorers out there here's John's original beta:

This is best reached by parking as for Farleton Crag at Holme Park Farm. Follow the bridleway until it starts to level out after passing the tier of rock behind the Main Crag. Go left up the plateau above this tier until you reach the traverse, which will be facing you, after a couple of hundred metres.

(7a/V6) Start on the left end of the long flake, go rightwards along it and continue low to gain a hole and jug. Above these is a shallow pocket/edge and an edge (just below the top of the boulder), use these to get a further edge and then a low flake round the arête, pull round to finish.

John Gaskins (1998)

Farleton Knott ~ Surfer Rosa (E)

Of the areas on the eastern slopes there are essentially two main sectors of interest. The first of which (E), is a single lowball boulder featuring limited climbing, but one classic slopey traverse and a nifty little straight-up problem.

Approach

Turn off the A6070 at the junction signed to Clawthorpe and follow the road toward Hutton Roof. Park on the right (from Clawthorpe) at an obvious lay-by (featuring an area info sign), just before the road reaches its highest point - around 2km from the A6070. There is extra parking further up the road (on the left) if necessary.

Go through the gate opposite and follow the track from the road to the top of the first rise, take the path which goes leftward (west) across two fields (and through two gates), toward the quarry. On exiting the second gate turn rightwards up a track, follow this for a couple of hundred metres until you reach a tree growing next to a wave-like boulder, 80m right of the track.

Newbiggin Crag (F) - Whiteout

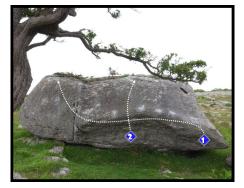
Approach

From the same parking spot described above; again enter the hillside via the gate opposite the parking. Follow the track for around 500m until an escarpment can be seen directly ahead. At the point where the path dissects the crag turn right (leaving the main track) and follow the base of the crag for just over 150m to an obvious collection blocks and stepped section of crag line.

The Whiteout boulder is the largest of the group of blocks and features a number of good problems, the best of which being the left to right traverse.

1) \blacklozenge Whiteout (7a+/V7) SDS The classic left to right traverse of the block starts on big jug on the south face and moves up and round the arête, along the break and down to a good hold. From here keep as low as possible past a triangular hold, to a pocket and on to the far arête. The top is out. The same line avoiding the top but climbing at your desired level is a less good 7a/V6. Both versions can be reversed. *

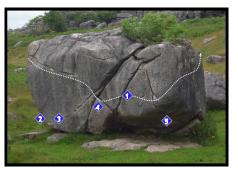
2) \blacklozenge (6a/V2) SDS The arête climbed direct.



1) Surfer Rosa (7a+/V7) From the right end of the block follow the lip leftward to level with a good hold 2/3 the way along. Keep on low holds as you contort up and left past two runnel holds to reach the far left end of the block. *

2) \blacklozenge (6b+/V4) SDS Start on the two worst slopes in the centre of the block and climb straight up.

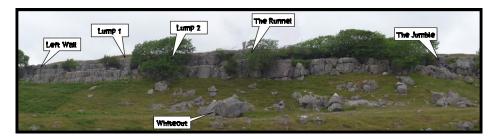
Newbiggin Crag (F) ~ Whiteout



3) \blacklozenge (5+/V1) The wall climbed direct.

4) \blacklozenge (5+/V1) SDS from the big hold climb into the break and traverse left to finish up the arête.

5) \blacklozenge Whiteout Roof (7a+/V7) SDS From a very low edge make a hard move to the triangular hold, then to the pocket, and finish direct.



Newbiggin Crag (F) - Upper Tier

Upper Tier

There are numerous other decent problems which are not listed here. These are generally very easy or have poor landings, the best omissions are situated on and around the wall capped by a short roof, around 150m left of the 'Left Wall' and the sector between 'Lump 2' and The 'Runnel'.

Left Wall

1) \blacklozenge Left Wall (7a+/V7) SDS The centre of the capped wall, via a hard move to get off the deck.

Lump 1

2) \diamond (5+/VO) SDS The centre of wall past two breaks. Hard to start.

3) \blacklozenge (6a+/V3) SDS Start on a block and traverse the break left keeping to holds in the break. Finish up the far left side of the wall.

4) \blacklozenge (4+/V0) SDS The vague arête/prow.

Lump 2

5) (4/V0) SDS A few metres left of 'Lump 2' is a well formed arête. Climb this direct.

6) ♦ (4/V0) Wall right of an arête from a low start.

7) \blacklozenge (4+/V0) SDS Wall left of a vague arête from a crozzley slot.

The Runnel

8) The Runnel (4+/V0) SDS From a break climb up and into the superb water worn runnel. *











Newbiggin Crag (F) - Lower Tier

As with the Upper Tier the Lower Tier offers more lines than are listed here, however these omissions are generally scrambles rather than boulder problems.

1) \blacklozenge (5/VO) SDS The centre of the slabby wall.

2) \blacklozenge (6a/V1) SDS The vague prow, without holds on the arête out right.

3) \blacklozenge (4+/V0) SDS The arête started on the left.

Newbiggin Crag (F) - Lower Tier

4) \blacklozenge (5/VO) SDS From the base of the diagonal crack make a hard start and climb direct.

5) \blacklozenge (6c+/V5) SDS Climb the bulging wall right of the arête, without holds on the arête.

6) \blacklozenge (4/V0) Wall left of a deep crack starting on two edges.

7) ♦ (6c/V4) SDS The blunt arête to a break then direct through a seemingly blind finish over the sloping top - the holds are there, have faith. *



Newbiggin Crag (F) ~ The Jumble

(Topo's on next page)

This sector hosts the hardest problems at the crag and offers some really cool problems and unmissable sloping holds!

1) **Beyond the Berghorn** (7a+/V7) SDS Start at the right side of the block and follow the lip to the left prow and finish up this. *

2) \blacklozenge (5/V1) SDS Mantle the right side of the block.

3) **Cool Running's** (6a/V1) SDS Mantle the central runnel.

4) ♦ **Slap Arête** (7a/V6) SDS From a low break climb the right side of the arduous arête.

5) \blacklozenge (4/V0) SDS The blocky tower is quality and high, with juggy finishing holds. *

6) (6b+/V4) SDS From crimps in the thin break pull on and slap to a good hold. Continue up the detached prow above - two pads required.

7) • Ingleborough Wall (7b/V8) SDS Start on the block and use a side-pull slot to gain the break. Slap for the top and mantle/struggle over the scary top-out. Plenty of pads and cool temps are required! Chickening out left, at the top, is 6c+/V5. **

8) \blacklozenge (6a+/V3) SDS The undercut arête without the blocks for feet.

9) \blacklozenge (6a/V2) SDS From the base of the crack veer up and left to a big flake and up.

Newbiggin Crag (F) ~ The Jumble

10) \blacklozenge (6a/V2) SDS The diagonal crack.

The next problem is well hidden, in a hanging cavern, 10m right of p8.

11) The Fridge (7b/V8) SDS Start deep in the pit with feet on the back wall, a pistol grip side-pull and crimp in a thin break, at the base of the hanging prow. Pull on and make a hard move to a good hold on the prow, match into this and veer right to a crozzley crack then gain a jug at the top and escape toward the light. All foot blocks are out-of-bounds.* (Front cover image.)

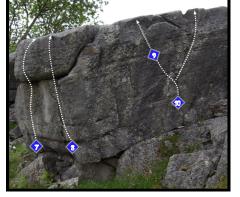
12) (6c/V4) SDS The wall, down and right of p11. Start matched on a central low side-cut.

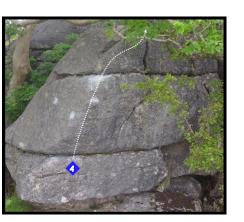
Image below: Heart's in your mouth time... Mike Binks attempts to top-out the awesome and intimidating *Ingleborough Wall*, 7b+/V8.



Newbiggin Crag (F) - The Jumble













Dalton Crags - Aspect & Approach

The small but scenically set circuit of Dalton Crags boulders hosts around 10 to 12 blocks, offering roughly 20 problems on a compact limestone, reminiscent to that of Fairy Steps. The area is

situated on the well wooded hillside above Burton in Kendal and just over a kilometre east of the hamlet of Dalton.

The climbing is below tree cover and at an altitude of roughly 250m. As such the venue offers shade and often a cool breeze, to make for a more tolerable setting during the summer months.

Approach

From the A6070, heading north, take a right turn (signed Dalton Lane) immediately on passing the Burton in Kendal sign. Follow this road for just under 3km to a car park on the left (Plain Quarry).



Dalton Crags - Aspect & Approach

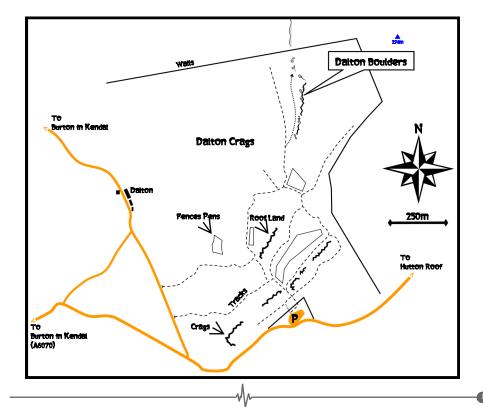
From here take the path at the rear of the car park and follow it NE for 80m or so, before going through the fence. Continue up the track (ignoring the first right turn) to a gap in the vague escarpment, and take the RH track (N) along the crag line - there is a large blue arrow on a tree pointing up the correct track. Stick to this track for around 500m - if unsure at junctions keep to the steepest line of ascent, heading NW. You will eventually come out in a clearing with the option to turn right (uphill) or left (down hill). Take the left turn, tracing the edge of a fenced pen. At the corner of the pen there is a bridleway veering right (N). Follow this track for around 100m until a slight crag line can be seen over to your right, strike a direct path over to the crag and follow it to the first blocks.

Many of the problems have small black arrows at the start to assist in navigation.

Roof Land

As well as the boulders described here, there is an area of impressive roofs - 'Roof Land' (see map). John Gaskins has climbed a handful of lines here but nothing is documented at present.

Image left: Steering a direct course through the inviting slopes of *Umbongo*, 7a+/V7.



Dalton Crags - The Boulders

Boulder 1

A: \blacklozenge (4/V0) SDS Mid-height break traverse.

B: \diamond (6c+/V5) SDS Low break traverse, using holds in or below the break. Starts from a slot.

C: \blacklozenge (5+/V1) SDS Straight up off two low crimps.

Boulder 2

A: \blacklozenge (5/VO) SDS Low start, feet under the roof.

Boulder 3

A: (5/VO) SDS Low start, feet under the roof.

Boulder 4

A: • **Umbongo** (7a+/V7) SDS From jug at the back of the roof climb straight out, direct through the slopey shelf and up the headwall. Top-draw. **

B: \blacklozenge (6c+/V5) SDS As per A but at the shelf move left into and up the prow.

C: \diamond (6c+/V5) SDS As per B but at the shelf move right and up. The broken gully is out of bounds.

- D: \blacklozenge (7a+/V7) From a tree traverse left into A.
- E: \diamond (4+/VO) Featured wall left of prow.
- F: (6a/V2) SDS Central undercut wall.
- G: \diamond (5/V0) SDS Wall on the left.

Boulder 9

A: \blacklozenge **Boon Town** (7b/V8) SDS Traverse the midheight break right to left, using only holds in or below the break. *

B: (6b/V4) SDS Wall, from very low holds.

Boulder 10

- A: \diamond (4+/V0) SDS Arête on the right.
- B: \blacklozenge (6a+/V3) SDS From low holds in thin break.

Image right: Sonic Boon, 7c/V9.



Dalton Crags - The Boulders

Boulder 11

A: • Sonic Boon (7c/V9) Traverse top break right to left, using only holds in or below the break. *

- B: 🔶 (6a/V2) SDS
- C: 🔶 (6a/V2) SDS

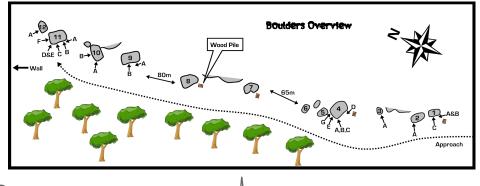
D: • Digithaul (7b/V8) SDS From an inverted mono and small undercut straight up the prow. Heals off the ground please.

E: • (6b/V3) SDS Previous problem starting on holds level with your head (when sitting).

F: \blacklozenge (6a/V2) SDS hands in the break. Starting with your hands very low is 6c+/V5.

Boulder 12:

A: \diamond (6a+/V3) SDS Wall from crimps.



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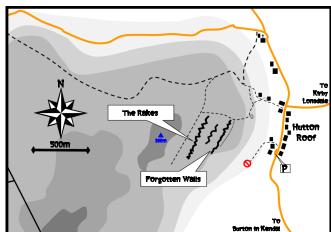
Hutton Roof ~ Aspect & Approach

Located around 3km SE of Farleton Knott, the fine limestone crags on the hillside above the village of Hutton Roof, have for many years been a staple inclusion of the various incarnations of the Lancashire guide (despite in fact being in Cumbria). Ever-popular with groups,

AUTOR LOUF BUTTOL ACTOR 138 SALETY RIST

those new to the sport and the evening soloist these escarpments offer some great short routes and, unsurprisingly, some decent bouldering.

The crags can be reached from the west (same parking as for Newbiggin Crag), but more usually are approached from the east:



Hutton Roof - Aspect & Approach

From the A6070, heading north, take a right turn (signed Dalton Lane) immediately on passing the Burton in Kendal sign. Follow this road for just under 6km to a left turn signed to Hutton Roof. Continue along this road to the village - 1km.

Park in a lay-by at the south end of the village, near a phone box. Continue on foot uphill (N) for around 350m to a path on the left, sandwiched between two buildings, and signed to 'Hutton Roof Crags'. Follow this track for about 100m to big gate, go through the gate and keep to the path which traces the left wall uphill. After a short distance the path forks, keep to the left fork and continue toward a big block on the skyline. Stick to this main track for a further 450m to where it levels, off the crag tier to your left is the start of 'The Rakes', which is the most frequented crag on the hillside.

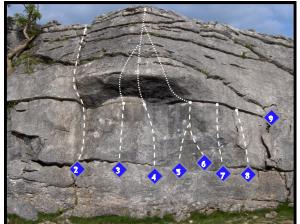
> If the parking at the south end of the village is full, you can park to the north, near the church and school. There is a good track starting at the school which goes through some woods, onto the hillside and up west toward 'The Rakes' (refer to the approach map).

The best climbing at The Rakes is centred around Cyclops Wall in the middle of the tier, which is a fine, well ventilated buttress fronted by a grassy area.

Before you reach Cyclops Wall there is one problem of note on 'South America Wall' which is the high buttress first encountered.



1) American Dream (6c+/V5) The centre of the thin wall between two cracks, finishing at the break. The cracks are out. A good crash pad is useful on this one. Topping out to the right is VS 5a.



Hutton Roof ~ Cyclops Wall

(Topo on previous page)

This sector hosts some excellent problems, however some holds have become a little polished over time.

2) Vings (3/V0) The groove/crack.

3) \blacklozenge (4/V0) From a side-pull straight up to the break.

4) **The Scoop** (6b/V4) The central scoop via a high pistol-grip undercut. Morpho! **

5) \blacklozenge Cyclops (6a+/V3) From the low break use slopey edges to gain the break. **

Hutton Roof ~ Nick's Traverse

Hutton Roof ~ Cyclops Wall

6) • **Cyclops RH** (6a/V2) From an undercut pocket gain a high slopey edge and on to deep holds the break. **

7) \blacklozenge **Medusa** (5+/V1) Us an undercut right of the pocket to stack your feet and reach the break.

8) \blacklozenge Serpent (3+/V0) Gain the weatherworn hanging crack and climb direct.

9) ♦ (5/V1) Traverse the break in either direction. Holds above the roof are out.

Hutton Roof ~ Nick's Traverse



2) \blacklozenge (6a+/V3) SDS The diagonal crack from as low as possible.

3) \blacklozenge (7a/V6) SDS Another burley diagonal crack. Start with hands low in the crack.

Hutton Roof ~ Forgotten Walls

There are two fantastic walls of superb rock on the lowest tier behind The Rakes, toward the village.

The easiest method of approach is to walk toward the village from the top of Cyclops Wall, over the second tier and down a well runnelled limestone pavement, after which two clean, 3m high walls can be seen ahead, staked one on top of the other.



Around 100m or so past Cyclops Wall is a large open buttress with a roof on the right hand side.

1) **•** Nick's Traverse

(7a+/V7) Starting on the far left of the buttress traverse rightward following the now fading red dots, to the far right side of the roof.

4) \blacklozenge The Cause (7a+/V7) SDS From a good two finger pocket and inverted crozzley pocket snatch for a thread on the lip and up. The foot ledge is out.

5) \blacklozenge (6c+/V5) SDS Lip traverse starting far right.

Hutton Roof ~ Forgotten Walls

The upper wall host one fine right to left traverse.

1) Ash Tree Traverse (4+/VO) Follow the break past a small tree, to and up the left arête. **

The lower wall offers a few variant right to left traverses between 7a/V6 and 7c/V9 (depending on how high or low you stay).

There are also a few straight-ups, the first two described are excellent.

2) **Dead Eyes** (7a/V6) SDS From two eye-like pockets make a stiff pull to small slots and up. *

3) ♦ **Blastaway** (7b+/V8) SDS From a slopey two -handed edge pull on and dyno for the good, high finger jug. *

4) \diamond (5/V0) Use a big low side-pull and slot to pull on and lunge for a jug.

This wall can also be reached by turning off the main approach track (see map).