

KELTON HILL CRAG



Michael Kenyon cuts-loose on *Time and Motion*.
Photograph: Carol Dougherty

KELTON HILL CRAG

Alan Dougherty
March 2009
Photo-topos Ron Keyon
Photos as acknowledged.

OS Explorer (1:25000) sheet OL 31 North Pennines

NGR: NY 926197

Aspect: south

Altitude: 390m

Approach Time: 30 minutes

Situation and Character

Kelton Hill lies in Baldersdale just over 3km, as the crow flies, to the north-west of Goldsborough Carr, from where it is visible. The problems described are on good quality Gritstone and the landings are mostly excellent, which is helpful as some of the top-outs are quite high-ball. It is a compact venue offering fine bouldering and an excellent outlook.

History

An initial visit was made by Alan and Carol Dougherty on 20.9.08. Next day the team was strengthened with the inclusion of Ron and Michael Kenyon, the latter of whom climbed with ease the harder problems that the older folk could not manage.

Access and Approaches

Kelton Hill Crag lies on moorland that is designated *Access Land* under the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*. Under the Act the land can also be subject to temporary closures of up to twenty-eight days a year. Notification of closures should be posted at *Access Points* locally and, prior to a visit, can be checked on www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk or via the *Access Helpline* on 0845 100 3298.

Aim for the road running along the north side of Baldersdale: approach directly from Romaldkirk, via Hunderthwaite or from Cotherstone, crossing under the dam of Hury Reservoir. Locate the Public Footpath that leaves the road at 915190, just north of East Carlingill farm. It is possible to park a couple of cars on the verge near this point – alternatively there is a small car-park at the road-head 600m further on. Follow the path

past the landing strip – one might want to muse upon the juxtaposition of this feature and land previously restricted of access for bird conservation reasons – pass through a gate and head north-east to the corner of the large field. At the corner ignore the stile carrying the footpath onwards. Instead cross the **north-south** aligned wall with care to avoid damage and head east crossing two further walls. Some scruffy outcrops, which may provide some problems, are passed en-route. Please note that there is no right of access directly from the Pennine Way.

General Layout

The problems described all lie to the east of the last to be crossed stone wall. *The Subsidiary Block* is closest to the wall and situated just uphill of the two main blocks: *Left-hand Block* and *Right-hand Block*, separated by a chimney feature. The problems are described left to right, facing the outcrop.

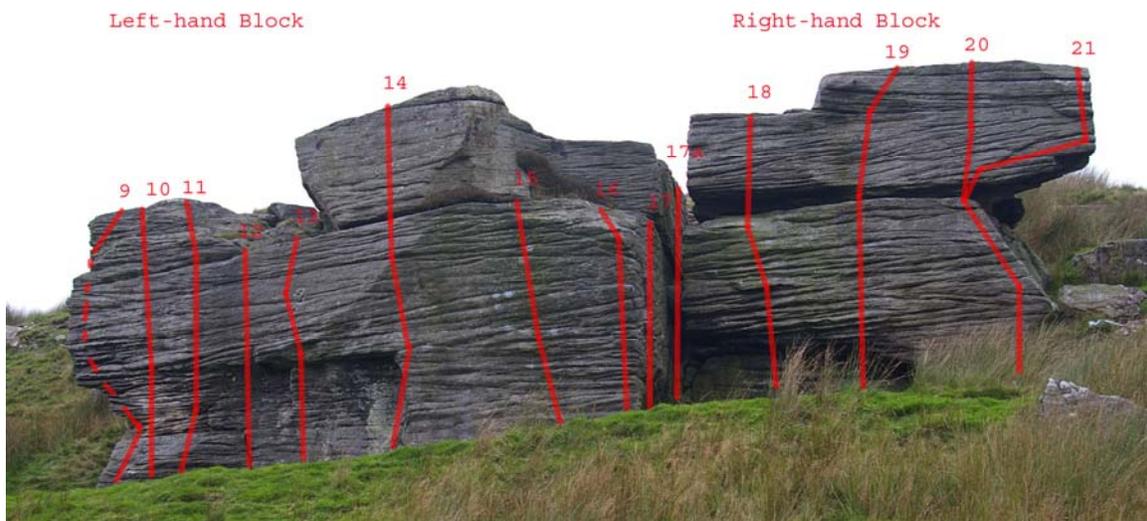
The Subsidiary Block

1. *Slotting in Time* Diff. Slab left side.
 2. *Just in Time* Severe Centre of slab.
- Both climb a pleasant rippled slab.
3. *Time and Again* Severe Right arête with awkward start.
 4. *Out of Time 5b* Scoop in south wall
 5. *Time out of Mind 4c* The blunt corner.

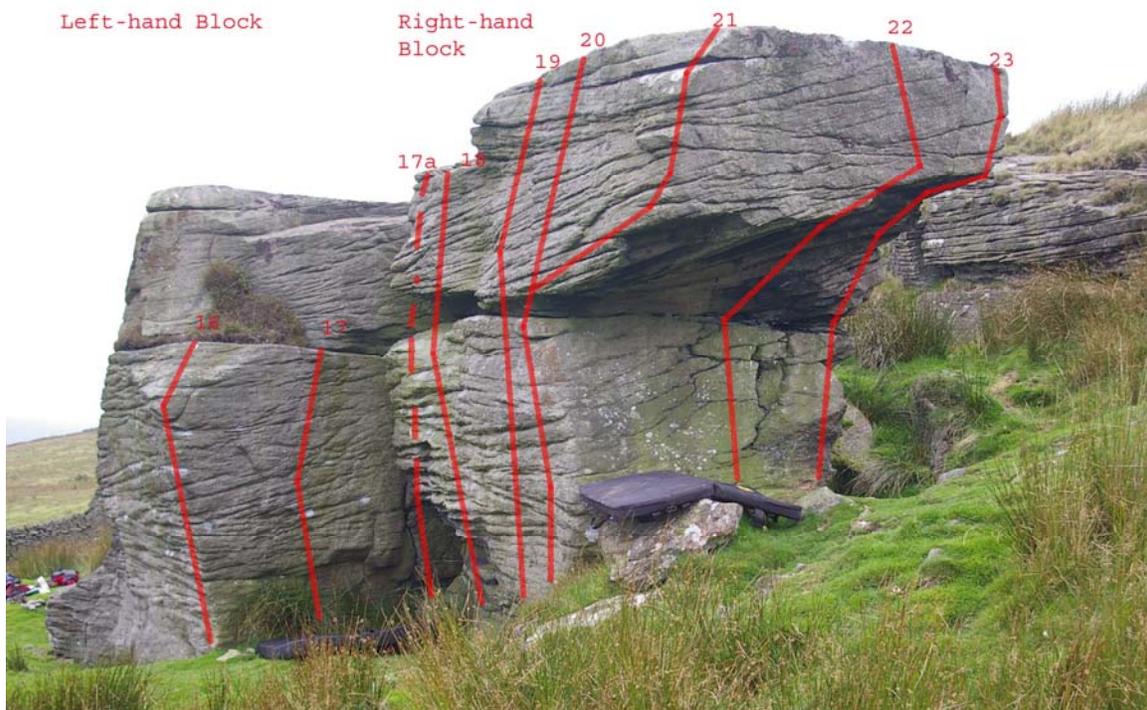


Left-hand Block

6. *Stairway (on back corner of west face.)* Easy
7. *Tick Tock 5c* Middle of wall using obvious slot.
8. *Groovy Time 5b* Groove on right of west wall.
9. *Climb in Time Saves Nine 5b* Arete between west and south walls.



10. *Hard Times* 5c Just to right of arête using under-clings.
11. *Chocks Away!* (grade mislaid) Start on ledge – direct on slaps – serious with ledge below.
12. *Bird-strike* 5b From right-hand end of ledge through alcove to further ledge above. Easier if tall.
13. *Crack-on* 6a Directly via tiny finger holds (? bullet-scars) – high-ball - easier for tall – drifting left misses the fun and difficulty.
14. *Time Torn Man* 6a Side-pull and long reach to break – further reachy moves to top – high-ball.
15. *Pain of Time* 6b Leaning wall on impressively small holds.



16. *Time on Our Side* 5c Use faith and friction to ascend corner to left of chimney.
17. *Dyno Time* 6a STS – left side-pull – dyno for top.

Right-hand Block

18. *Stolen Time* 5c 1m right of chimney – undercut to reach break – awkwardly up head-wall. Green, gritty and scary.
19. *September o'clock* 5b Follows the slight scoop in the centre of the block; started by a dynamic reach to a sinker jam in break.
20. *Just in Time* 5c Use rib on right-hand end of block to reach awkward moves on head-wall.
21. *Time and Motion* 6a Start as for previous problem but follow overhanging arête. Nasty landing – pad block below.
22. *Shaking Time* 6b Just left of right-hand corner of roof – tiny pockets – to a “bit of a dyno to the top” (MK)
23. *Time Waits for No Man* 6a/6 Starts low to follows prow directly on tiny holds.
24. *Whale of a Time* 5a Trending slightly rightwards to an often inelegant finish.



Problem: *Time Torn Man*
Climber: Alan Dougherty
Photograph: Carol Dougherty



Problem: *Just in Time*
Climber: Ron Kenyon
Photograph: Carol Dougherty