**CLEADOW - QUARRY CRAG**

OS Landranger Sheet: 88

Map Reference: NZ 385640

Aspect: Southwest

Altitude: 50m

Approach: 1 minute

Mod - Severe	0
HS - HVS	0
E1 - E3	0
E4 and above	0
Bouldering	33

History

Mike Blenkinsop was the first to record his activities here back in 1974, including *Left* and *Right Walls*. Paul Stewart climbed *Thin White Crack*, *The Dancer* and the testing *Naybrew*. Paul Stewart was also involved in the development of the *Black Wall* with many problems including *Improviser* and *The Rat*. Many local climbers have used this compact venue for mid week training but few have "claimed" their achievements as first ascents.

Situation and Character

These pleasant, though small, crags are more akin to outdoor climbing walls than some of the major bouldering crags in this guide. The urban setting and southwestern aspect ensures popularity amongst local climbers however a long journey from far outside of South Tyneside can hardly be justified. The rock is Magnesium Limestone with many shell fossils clear to see. The quality of the rock is variable but all the problems described are on good quality limestone, however the more popular problems do suffer from a high polish. Quarry Crag is sheltered and can be climbed on all year round. The nearby Cleadow Crag (NZ392628) is showing signs of neglect and has become more overgrown in recent years. More details can be found on www.climbonline.co.uk.

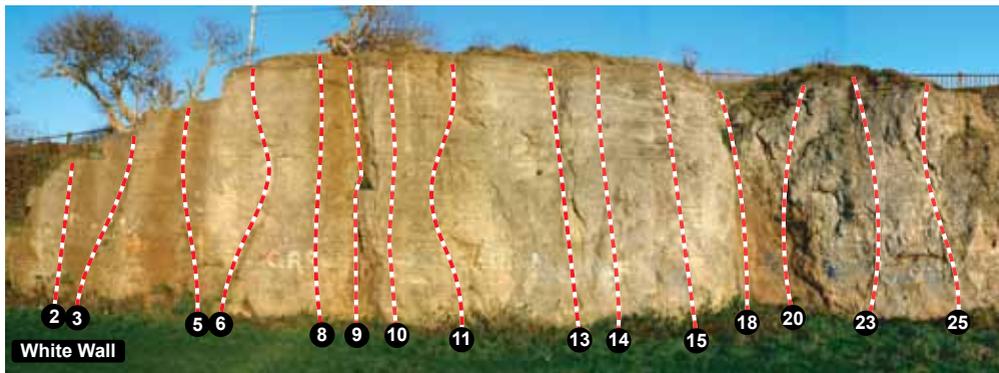
Access and Approaches

Quarry Crag is easily located as it overlooks the football fields adjacent to Quarry Lane in South Shields, on the edge of the Cleadow Hills. Park near the junction of Quarry Lane and Larch Avenue.

The Climbs

By far the best and most pleasant of the crags in the Cleadow Massif! The problems are short and generally polished. Many of the harder problems are eliminate in nature and obviously many more variations exist than are described here. Despite this Quarry Crag is a popular training area. There are two main buttresses, White Buttress and Black Wall. White Buttress is mostly used for up and down problems while Black Wall is most popular for its pumpy traverses. All the problems are about four metres high. While most climbers boulder here, there is a convenient fence along the top of the crag should a belay be required, however care should be taken not to let the rope run over the edge where irreparable damage has been caused to the soil, especially above White Wall. The climbs are described from left to right.





White Wall

The climbs are described from left to right.

1. The Arête Font 1 (Mod)

The stepped arête on the left of the buttress provides an easy means of descent.

2. Small Wall Font 3+

The first problem and the first eliminate! Climb the wall to the right of the arête without using the *Small Crack* to your right.

3. Small Crack Font 2+

The first obvious small crack.

4. Short Wall Font 4+

Another interestingly named problem with an interesting finger end mantelshelf move.

5. Short Crack Font 3

Takes the next obvious short crack.

6. Left Wall Font 4 *

After climbing the initial stairway reach over the bulge for very small holds. A finger pocket high on the left sometimes enables the top to be reached!

7. Central Wall Font 5+

Essentially a direct start and a direct finish of *Left Wall*. Starting just to the right of the stairway climb directly to the top stair and continue straight to the top. Strenuous, with very committing final moves.

8. Golden Years Font 4+

The golden brown wall just to the left of the obvious *Central Groove* can be climbed.

9. Central Groove Font 2+

The obvious groove with the triangular ledge at

half height is usually gained from the left and finished on the right arête.

10. Right Wall Eliminate Font 6b

After climbing *Central Groove* and *Right Wall*, try the wall in between without using any of the holds that you used on either. A great test of self-control.

11. Right Wall Font 3+ **

The slightly bulging wall to the right of *Central Groove*, trending leftwards at first then back right before going for the top.

12. Blunt Bulge Font 4

Climbs the rounded bulge direct, finishing via two large undercuts.

13. Original Route Font 3 **

The last obvious crack before the corner. It is also possible to finish leftwards, from half height, towards *Right Wall* at **Font 3**.

14. Hidden Wall Font 4+

Aptly named! A difficult problem to locate. Just right *Original Route* and left of a faint depression.



Karin Magog 6. Left Wall (4+) Photo: Steve Crowe

15. Depression Font 3

Continuing the theme of subtle route names, climb via the faint depression.

16. Grooveline Font 3+

Based on the shallow groove line at the top of the wall and just right of the faint depression.

17. Pock Wall Font 3

The wall just left of the corner.

18. The Corner Font 3

An awkward and polished problem.

19. Girdle Traverses Font 4/Font 5+

Good girdle traverses can be made at high and low levels. Start at *The Arête* and traverse rightward as far as *The Corner*.

20. Clit Font 6a

The faint hanging groove just to the right of *The Corner* is strenuously climbed to a layaway hold on the bulge. Easy climbing leads to the top.

21. Naybrew Font 6a+ *

Climb to the small roof using two pockets then a long strenuous reach leads to a good ledge.

22. Jug Wall Font 6a+

This squeezes in between *Naybrew* and the *Thin White Crack*. Climb directly to a "stuck on" sharp hold, and then a lunge can be made to the ledge above *Naybrew*.

23. Thin White Crack Font 6a **

A popular problem taking the very polished crack in the centre of this wall.

24. Scott Wall Font 5+

The blank looking wall is climbed strenuously to an undercut/pocket. From here a superb move leads to a sloping ledge over the top.

25. Ragged Crack Font 3+

The next crack to the right, and just left of the arête.

26. Mid-level Girdle Font 5+

A traverse from *Ragged Crack* to *The Corner*.

27. Low-level Girdle Font 6c

Also From *Ragged Crack* to *The Corner*.

Black Buttress

Some consider Black Buttress to be too broken and overgrown. However, some of the routes are worthwhile, only the best have been described here. The routes finish at a dense growth of ivy and you may need to reverse or jump off!

28. Patriarch Font 5

Climb the broken roof in the centre and finish direct.

29. Chord Crack Font 3

Climb the broken wall to the obvious crack that starts at half height. Follow the crack direct.

30. The Improviser Font 4+

Takes the wall to the right, starting below the bulge at the top of the wall.

31. The Supervisor Font 5+

Follow *The Improviser* to half height then traverse right to ascend the vague depression to the top.

32. The Supervisor Direct Start Font 6b+

Start directly below the depression and climb the overhang. A layaway/undercut hold allows a superb dyno to a sloping hold high on the wall above, and then finish up the vague depression.

33. The Rat Font 4 *

Start directly below the black bulging arête, 6m right of *Chord Crack*. A short pillar leads to a small cave; from here follow the arête direct.

More problems have been climbed further right however the dense vegetation has taken over.

34. Black Wall Girdle Font 4+ *

It is possible to traverse the entire length of this wall at many levels at grades from about **Font 4+** to **Font 6c+** depending on the rules!



Steve Crowe 24. Thin White Crack (5+) Photo: Karin Magog