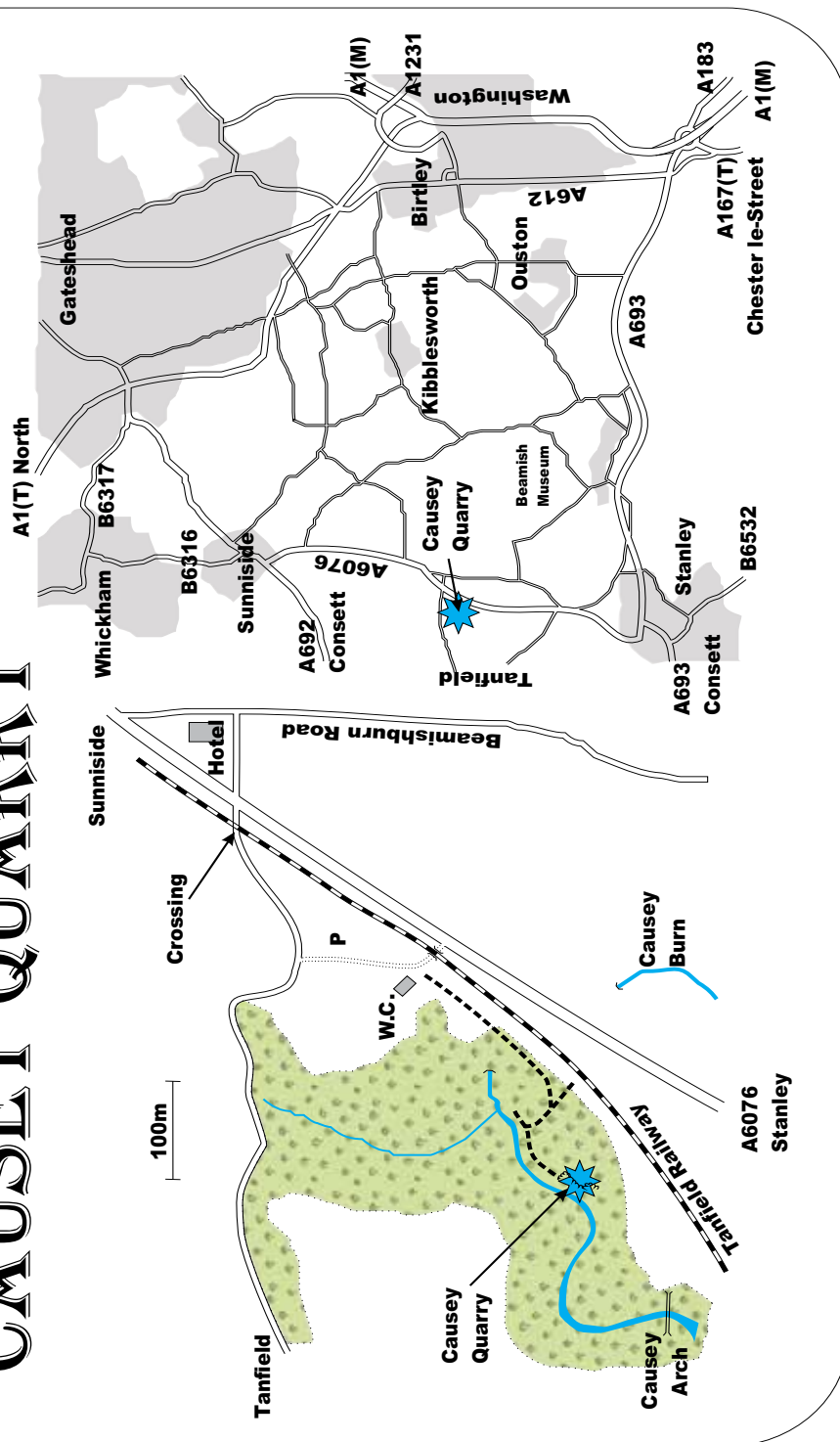


Causey Quarry



CAUSEY QUARRY



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OS Landranger Sheet: 88
 Map Reference: NZ204560
 Aspect: North West
 Altitude: 150m
 Approach: 3 minutes

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Mod - Severe | 9 |
| HS - HVS | 17 |
| E1 - E3 | 7 |
| E4 and above | 4 |
| Bouldering | 11 |

History

The quarry was discovered by Nev Hannaby and along with other members of the Crag Lough Group, including Albert Rosher, Eric Rayson and Geoff Oliver, was developed into a popular evening venue. The father and son partnership of Ed Thompson and Ed Thompson have been guardians of the quarry ever since with Ed junior a permanent feature soloing up, down and all around the crag with his tee shirt left on a strategic ledge. Karl Telfer climbed *Sandman* during the seventies. Both Paul Linfoot and Karl Telfer climbed *Perplexity* in the early eighties both think they were first! George Hayden certainly made the first free ascent of *Mauler Roof*. Peter Holder found a gap in 2009 and filled it with the desperate *Unbreakable*.

Situation and Character

Causey is an old quarry of reasonably sound sandstone offering several quality routes and good bouldering. It is a sheltered location, which usually allows all year round climbing. Proximity to Tyneside and ease of access makes this; without doubt, the most frequented crag in the North East and the large amount of traffic is taking its toll on the crag environment. Trees and vegetation on top of the crag have suffered particularly badly and this has led to material being washed down during rainy periods making some routes particularly dirty and sandy.

The nearness to Causey Arch and Tanfield Railway has made this a very popular location with tourists as well as climbers making the whole climbing environment very delicate and one that should be looked after carefully.

Access and Approaches

In County Durham just off the A6076 between Sunnyside and Stanley. New tourist signposts for the Causey Arch make this one of the easiest crags to locate in the guide. Opposite the Causey Arch public house is a side road. Take this and immediately after crossing the railway turn left into the car park. Left of the toilet block a track, sign posted to Causey Arch, leads downhill to the crag in 2 minutes.

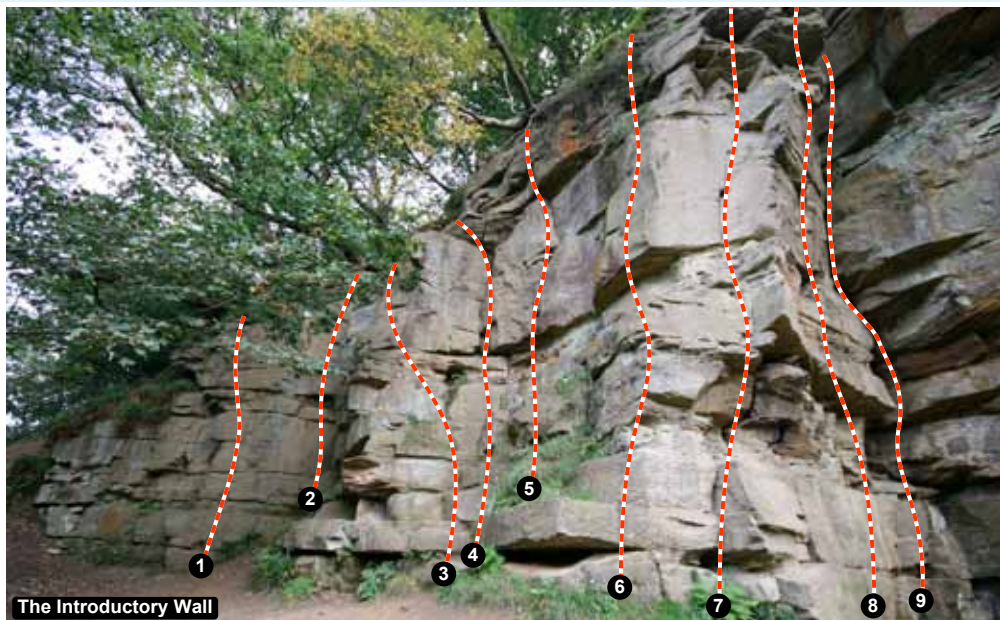
Special Note

Take ALL litter home - even if it's not yours!
 Use a sling around trees when top roping.
 Use only soft soled shoes.

Groups should try to find a more suitable location for abseiling as this is a major cause of erosion on top of the *Mauler*, *Mangler*, *Dangler* area, leaving the whole area dangerously unstable and very slippery especially when damp.

The Climbs

The climbs are described from left to right. The descent is to the East, (left when facing the rock) of the crag. There are an infinite number of minor variations claimed and counter claimed over the years. Only the main lines are described here.



The Introductory Wall

1. Wall Route One 4m S 4b

Takes the middle of the short wall on the left of the crag.

2. Black Crack 5m VD

The aptly named chimney crack.

3. Easy Buttress 6m M

The easy angled buttress starting on the right and moving leftwards the more easily up to the top.

4. Spider Crack 6m S 4b *

The short corner crack, exiting left at the overhang.

5. Wall Route Two 6m HS 4c

The cracked wall 1m right of the corner of *Spider Crack*. It is possible to continue straight up the wall above the crack but it is rarely in good condition so may be prudent to finish by traversing left to the finish of *Spider Crack*.

6. Dusky Maiden 10m S 4c

The stepped blunt arête.

7. Quarry Wall 12m VS 4c **

Start at the crack on the left of the overhanging wall. Follow this through the overhang, stepping left onto a ledge. Up the wall using a rectangular pocket then over the bulge on good holds.

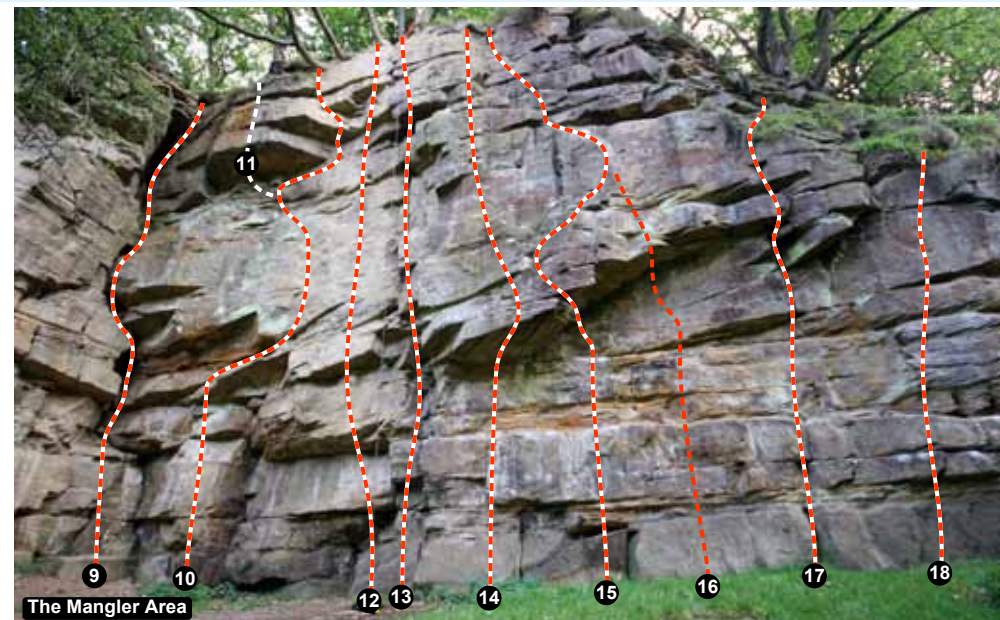
The arête (*Quarry Arête HVS 4c*) immediately to the right of the "rectangular pocket" on *Quarry Wall* wall makes for an entertaining eliminate.

8. Overhanging Wall 12m HVS 5b

Good but strong will power is required to resist the temptation to step right on to easier ground from the crux. Climb the short wall 1m left of the corner chimney, to a ledge. Up the cracked wall above to a thin crack on the right and a good hold at its top. Then the bulge above.

9. Crack and Chimney 15m S 4b *

The obvious corner crack is climbed until it closes. Moves on the left wall lead into the upper chimney.

Peter Holder 12. *Unbreakable* (E6 6c) Photo: Holder Coll.

The Mangler Area

10. The Mauler 18m E3 5b *

Climb the short rib right of the corner to a ledge. Hand traverse right for 3m. Reach up and left to a series of ledges that lead to the large overhang. Step right and pull over leftwards.

11. Mauler Roof 18m E5 6b

A boulder problem in the sky. The large roof is taken direct.

George Hayden 1980s

12. Unbreakable 18m E6 6c

Start about 1.5m left of *The Mangler* directly under the overhang. Climb over the overhang using any hold left of the crack, a long stretch to a crimp on the left is needed. Cross straight over *Mauler Traverse* and continue super direct to only runner in line with *Mauler Roof*. Finish directly up with a dynamic move for the top. A long reach may help!

Peter Holder 22 August 2009

13. Mangler 18m HVS 5b ***

The obvious central weakness gives a good, strenuous and popular route.

14. Perplexity 18m E6 6c *

Climb the thin crack 1m right of *Mangler* and up to the overhang. Take the overhang at its widest point and up to a flat hold on the left. Up the centre of the wall to a horizontal break and easier climbing.

Paul Linfoot or Karl Telfer both 1980s

15. Dangler 18m E3 5c ***

Follow old peg scars to the roof. Over the roof leftwards then up and back right to better holds leading leftwards to the top.

It is also possible to climb the over the roof as for *Dangler* then continue directly to the top at a more sustained 5c.

16. Strangler 18m E4 6b *

Climb the wall right of the peg scars to a ledge. Long reaches up the wall and over the overhang leads to better holds on the *Dangler*. Follow this to the top.

17. Hangover 10m E1 5b *

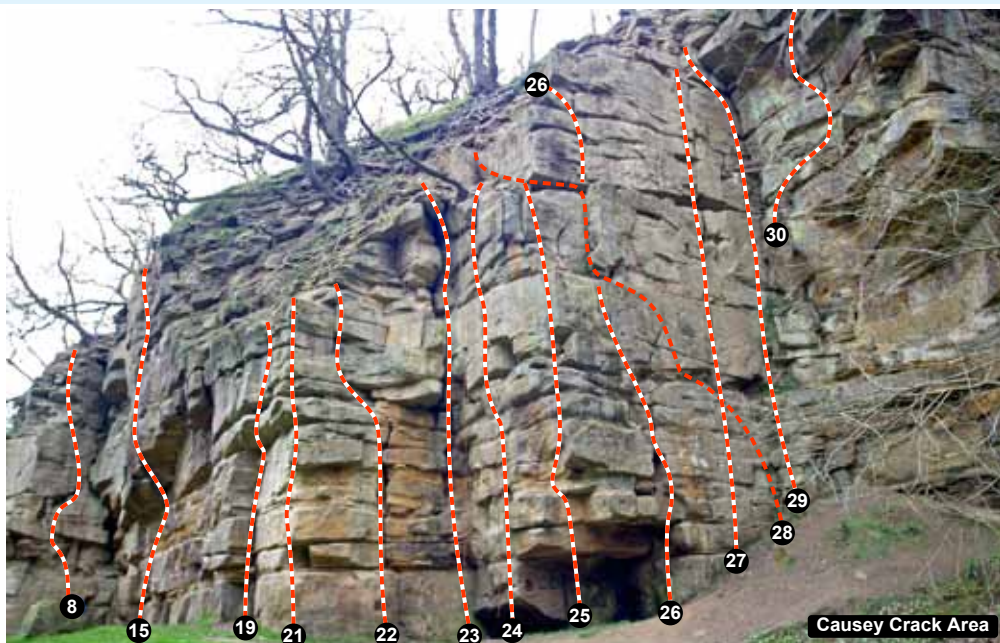
Takes the thin crack and block overhang. Climb the wall to the crack then the overhang to better holds. **Take great care as the block is now loose!** Two variations are possible:

5b. Climb the wall to the right of the crack and the diagonal line rightwards round the overhang.

6b. Climb the wall and overhang just right of the thin crack and block overhang.

18. Letterbox Wall 10m E1 5b **

The wall on the right has a "letter box" at 5m. Climb up to this and use it to surmount the wall above. Great climbing spoilt only by the exit is the second worst of the crag!

**19. Route 2.5 10m HVS 5a**

A short corner, a roof and the short wall above soon lead to the crux!

20. Route 2.75 10m HVS 5b

Just right of the short corner mantle the ledge and climb the wall to the break in the overhang, over this and up to the top.

21. The Arête 8m HS 4b

Mantle the ledge and climb the arête.

22. Wall Route Three 10m S 4b *

About 1m right of the arête, climb a crack to a large flake. Climb on to the flat top of the flake. Step left and onto the top.

23. Hanging Crack 12m MVS 4b **

The corner past a ledge to beneath an overhang. Step right and follow a crack to the top.

Variation Start VS 5a

Start just right of the corner. Mantelshelf and climb the wall until holds lead into the corner.

Variation Finish VS 4c

Climb the large overhang instead of stepping right.

24. Causey Crack 12m VS 4c ***

Start 1m right of the corner, mantelshelf the ledge then climb up to the niche and follow the crack to the top.

25. A Means to an End 12m VS 4c

Start at the large overhang below the arête. Mantelshelf leftwards then step right and climb the arête.

C King, S Murphy 1980s

26. Diagonal Direct 10m HS 4b *

Start just up from the undercut arête and climb the crack and wall to join *Diagonal*. Move onto a large flat-topped flake and up the short wall.

27. Telstar Crack 12m VS 4c **

Follow the crack line just to the left of the corner.

28. Diagonal 10m D

From the top of the mud bank on the bottom of the crag traverse left up ledges to reach the mud bank on the top of the crag!

29. Telstar Corner 12m S 4a *

Take the corner crack to the roof. Hand traverse left to the crack and up to the top.

Direct Finish VS 4b *

Follow *Telstar Corner* to below the roof. Pull powerfully over the roof to finish direct.

Simon Gee, L Ogle 1980s

30. Right Hand Wall 13m VS 4c

Follow the corner until standing on a small, flat-topped pillar (old peg on the right). Traverse right to a small ledge. Pull up left to another ledge (old peg). Pull over rightwards to finish.



Variation VS 5a

From the top peg step left and climb the large roof on good holds.

31. Right Hand Wall Direct 15m HVS 5b

Start 1m right of the corner and climb to a large niche. Climb the overhang to horizontal ledges then up right to join *Right Hand Wall*.

Variation 6b

From the top of the niche, reach right 1m to holds on the lip of the overhang. Pull directly up the overhang and short wall. Any way top the top. This route has only ever been top roped.

32. Sandman 15m E3 5c

Start in the shallow corner groove at the lowest point of this buttress. Climb the groove to the roof. Make a long reach leftwards round the hanging arête and pull up the short wall to a ledge. Climb the hanging blocks to finish.

Karl Telfer 1970s

33. White Traverse 10m VS 4b

Start 2m up from the corner groove. Climb the wall leftwards to a ledge and broken rock to the top.

To the right is a dirty gully. Three routes have been claimed to the right of this up to a crack (5a) and the wall to the right (5b). They are dirty and seldom if ever climbed. Across the first bridge on the path down to the crag is an obvious arête.

34. Xenon 10m E1 5b

Take the arête direct. Hardly worth the effort.

Paul Linfoot 1970s

The crag lends itself to girdle traverses at several levels

35. The Haunt 55m VS 5a **

A high level girdle.

1. 10m 4c Climb *Quarry Wall* to the final bulges. Move right to belay in *Crack and Chimney*.

2. 15m 5a Move right to gain good holds beneath the large overhang. Follow the horizontal until below the final overhang of the *Mangler*. Continue along the horizontals the rightwards to the top of the crag.

3. 15m 4b Move down to *The Arête* and onto the flake ledge. Rightwards into *Causey Crack*, down to the niche and round the arête to Diagonal.

4. 15m 4c Rightwards into *Telstar* and the small

pinnacle ledge. Right to a ledge then over the hanging block to finish.

Ed Thompson Jr. Solo 1971

37. Eliminate Girdle 35m E1 5c

A mid height girdle.

1. Take *Quarry Wall* to the ledge above the first overhang. Move right across *Overhanging Wall* to the thread in *Crack and Chimney*. Move right and continue the *Mauler* traverse to the *Mangler* and up to belay in the sentry box.

2. Step down and stretch across to the *Perplexity* "resting ledge" and then into the *Dangler*. Follow the horizontal into *Hangover* then move right to finish up *Letter Box Wall*.

38. Low Level Girdle 75m Font 6a

Traverse the whole crag from left to right never any higher than a few feet off the ground.

Boulder Problems

Here are a selection of popular problems and traverses.

1. Font 4+

The overhang and wall left of the *Quarry Wall* start.

2. Font 6b+

Start in the corner right of *Mauler* step up with hands above the second overhang. Step right and up to join *Mauler* traverse. Reverse the start of *Mauler*.

3. Font 6a+

The crack and wall left of *Mangler*, to join it left of a pointed block hold.

4. Font 5+

Climb the crack and layaway of *Perplexity* to the overhang - no hands on the ledge.

5. Font 6b+

Just right of *Perplexity* crack climb wall to the *Perplexity* layaway and up to the overhang - no hands on ledge or in crack.

6. Font 6b+

From *Overhanging Crack* traverse wall on buckets low down round the arête and cross wall via crack and peg hole.

7. Font 6b+

From *Overhanging Crack* traverse wall on buckets low down round to the arête, move up to hand ledge and traverse right on peg holes.

8. Font 5

The Classic low level traverse of the whole crag.

9. Font 6b+

From *Hangover* traverse to *Mangler* - no hands on ledge or in peg holes, vertical cracks.

10. Font 6a

From *Mangler* to *Hangover* using peg holes and undercuts and vertical *Perplexity* crack.

11. Font 7a

As previous problem but no vertical cracks or undercuts.

Confused ? There will nearly always be someone at the crag who will be more than happy to show you round the problems!