

GRIMBALD CRAG

N.G.R. SE 362558

Extract from 1992 guide written by Ken Tilford

SITUATION AND CHARACTER Knaresborough is not a name which springs to mind when asked to recommend somewhere to go climbing, but as an ancient historical town, it is well worth a visit. Apart from the castle and shops, there are riverside walks and the very picturesque Lido. It is here, amongst the ducks, caravans and ice cream stalls one could leave the family and spend an hour or so playing on the crag. The rock is generally a sandy magnesian limestone with pleasant pocket holds, but on one or two routes it can tend to be friable. As a result of this it may be prudent to top-rope the harder routes. There is a lot of foliage along the top of the crag, but the routes up to VS have recently been re-climbed and present no real problem.

APPROACHES AND ACCESS The rocks are in the grounds of Knaresborough Lido, about 3 kilometres from the town's bus or train station. By car, take the B6164 road towards Wetherby. It is possible for a couple of cars to park on the grass verge outside the Lido, but for a charge of £2 there is a car park provided. The Lido is a private caravan park, so climbing is only allowed between October and the end of April. A campsite is available 50 metres up the Wetherby road. **See 2005 guide - page 491 - for latest position.**

HISTORY Most of the routes were pioneered and recorded by John Mackenzie and Glen Gorner in March and April 1981, whilst Ken Tilford added a few more lines when researching the 1985 guide. On returning to the crag six years later and seeing no chalk marks anywhere, it would appear no one else has been! This is a pity since the crag offers some good soloing and easy routes, ideal for an early-season work-out.

THE CLIMBS These are described from left to right, starting from a small cave situated up a slight banking.

1 **Blind Jack Crack** 10m S

4a On the extreme left-hand side of the crag is a short corner. Climb this to a ledge on the left. Step right into the crack and follow it, passing a large thread to finish by the tree.

To the right and lower down the slope is an arete. This gives:

2 Hone Wall 12m VS

4c Climb the arete by its left-hand side. The chimney is then climbed until it is possible to regain the arete and so to the top.

To the right is a wall with a black-roofed overhang.

3 Pocket Wall 12m E1

5b The pockets to the left of the black roof offer some very pleasant moves but unfortunately the crucial ledge is a little friable. However, if you're still attached to the rock, move right into Black Magic. After a short ascent, gain a ledge on the left and climb the overhanging prow.

4 Black Magic 14m HVS

5a Start under the overhang, climb to the roof and exit left. Step back right to gain the cracks and finish up easier but brittle rock.

5 Black Highway 16m E1

5c Start as for Black Magic but move right into the groove. This leads to an overhang where a horizontal crack trends left to a wall with thread belays. The rib on the right is then taken, finishing left to avoid undergrowth.

6 White Wizard 14m MVS

★

4b Starts where the overhang meets ground level. At present the route is in danger of being taken over by clinging ivy. Make a rising traverse left to a pot-hole and climb up to two further pot-holes. Easier rock then leads right, finishing through the line of least resistance. **Direct start:** 5b Climb the overhang left of the normal start.

The wall drops back now and forms a right-angled corner with another wall.

7 Dark Star 9m S

★

4a The prominent crack in the corner is climbed with ease to just below the overhang. Traverse right to a crack which leads to the ivy covered top.

8 Angels Edgeway 9m HVS

★

5a A rising traverse right from the centre of the wall leads to cracks. The wall and arete above are more sound than the rock below.

The crag forms another bay. On the left wall is:

9 Horn of Plenty 6m VD

★

An awkward move left onto a vague ramp leads via a couple of short walls and a flake crack to the top.

3 GRIMBALD CRAG

On the right-hand wall of this corner is:

10 MgCO3 7m HVS

5a Climb the wall, following a crack until a flake is reached. Step right to the arete and climb the short wall.

Around the corner is a roofed wall.

11 Lost Enchantment 8m HVS

5a The central crack is climbed to the roof and a step left, then right, leads to an overhanging wall which is climbed in its centre.

12 Moderation 10m M

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Climb the corner crack to a terrace and go left to gain the top of the crag. This route also makes a good descent.

13 Mother Shipton 8m HVD

An overgrown route which climbs the crack 2 metres right of Moderation, and traverses left under the roof.

14 Small Ways 6m M

The corner and wall right of Mother Shipton.

A pleasant short slabby wall is situated 4 metres right of Small Ways. On the left is:

15 Left 8m VD

An easy start up the corner leads to a steep wall. Above this is a tree which can prove awkward to pass, or, traverse left and finish up Small Ways.

16 Centre 6m MVS

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4b Nice holds lead up the wall to a finish up the ivy scoop on the left.

17 Right 6m HS

4b A similar route to the left with bold moves, but low down. Climb the roof direct, then the wall above.

18 Limboist 7m VS

5a To the right of Right is a small broken tree. The overhang is climbed on good holds and it is then possible to move left and finish up Right.

19 Calcaria 8m HVS

5a Where the cliff gains height, 6 metres right of Limboist, is a roof. Climb this to a good ledge, pull up right of a friable overhang and finish on good rock.

20 Dexter 10m S

4a The crack splitting the overhang is climbed to a good ledge. Walk left and continue up a crack to a small tree.

21 Skywalker 35m HS

4b A partial traverse of the crag. From the right-hand side of the crag, move up easily to a small cave. Step left awkwardly and follow ledges left under the overhang. Step across Dexter and descend to further ledges. From the end of the ledges a few hard moves are made to the smooth wall which is followed above the overhangs to the corner of Left. Continue to finish up Small Ways.