

KIDSTONES SCAR

NGR SD 947813

(Summary of write-up by Mick Mason last published in full in the minor crags section of the YMC's 1985 guide).

The crag lies a few minutes walk from the summit of Kidstones pass on the B6160 road which runs from Buckden to Aysgarth. When approaching from Buckden cars may be left at the gate immediately before the road begins to descend into Bishopdale.

Though facing south-east and enjoying sunshine till mid-afternoon the exposed situation and high altitude create a bleak outlook. The vast amount of loose rock and scrappy nature of the routes, combined with the aspect and lack of natural belays ensure the spot should not become over-popular. *(In fact this description appears to have ensured is continued obscurity).*

The first feature, at the extreme left-hand end of the crag is an obvious rounded, crinoid outcrop. The twin cracks on the left of this provide a short problem of Diff standard. To the right the crag is broken for 40 metres until a second shallow recess gives the first climbs.

1 Ayatollah 10m D

Climb the centre of the recess direct.

2 The Bulge 11m S

Right is an obvious bulge split by a shattered crack. Climb it direct.

3 Curious Lip 15m MS

20 metres right and beyond a grassy bay is an easy wall. Climb this direct to a small bulge at 10 metres and continue over this to the top.

Fifty metres further right is a broken arete with a white slab at its base.

4 Slab and Crack 8m HS

4b Climb the slab to a small nose, step left and up a steep crack.

Twenty metres right is a right angled corner.

5 The Cleft 15m VD

The corner is climbed direct.

6 Church Crack 15m VS

4c A pleasant jamming crack 2 metres right of The Cleft.

7 Every Which Way is Loose 15m S

Climb the wall 2 metres left of the nose to the right of 3 rowan trees, crossing a grassy ledge at mid-height.

8 Downfall of J.R. 15m S

The shallow groove 2 metres right of the nose finishing up a loose corner above.

9 Right Gully 14m M

Fifteen metres right of the nose is a wide chimney/gully.

10 Genesis Crack 14m HVS

5b Three metres beyond right Gully is a roof split by a jam-crack. Climb the slab to the roof and make a hard pull over the lip.

11 Christmas Crackers 14m HS

4b The corner 3 metres right of Genesis Crack via a niche just below the top.