

Bursting Stone Quarry

NO ACCESS

The owner has indicated that work is starting here again - 2024. Although the current access situation is being discussed, it is currently unresolved.

Bursting Stone Quarry
FA Quiver F7a+
K Phizacklea
photo P Whillance

Bursting Stone Quarry

OS Ref: NY 278974

Alt: 560m

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High-quality sport climbs in a sunny location; exposed to south-westerly winds. The quarry lies on the SE flank of Coniston Old Man high above the Walna Scar Road. Work fell away over recent years and ceased altogether in 2021 leaving much loose rock, most of this has been cleared, but as with all quarried rock take great care.

Approach

From Coniston, pass The Sun Inn then follow the road very steeply to park at the Pay & Display Car Park on the Walna Scar Road. From the car park take the Walna Scar Road west, as for Dow Crag. After 800m turn right following a rough steep unsurfaced road. Follow this into spoil heaps; fork right at the first junction then left at the second to enter the quarries at the Main Wall. 35 mins walk from the car park.


Grades

8

2

7

The Main Wall

SPORT (FRENCH) Uphill 35 mins S / SW facing 

Introduction

All routes are fully bolted with lower-offs.

① Stone Cold Genius F7a New 20m

This is the slab and groove line set in the overhangs left of the corner of [Stone the Crows](#). Start at the far left side of the wall at a slabby grey groove. Climb the groove to a ledge on the right below large overhangs. Follow the rust coloured wall trending rightwards around the overhang to below a tapered groove. Climb the right wall to a downwards pointing flake then step left into the groove and up to a huge ledge and lower offs.

8.04.2023 K Phizacklea,



Bursting Stone Quarry LHS

② Stone the Crows F7a New 23m

Takes the prominent corner line in the upper section of the wall. Start below an obvious thin crack that leads up to the corner. Tricky moves up an initial grey wall then strenuously up the crack proper to reach good ledges. Move up into the main corner and follow this passing an awkward overlap en route to the lower offs. A classic route of sustained interest.

21.04.2023 P Whillance

③ Hands of Stone F7a+ New 23m

Start below a prominent line of right-trending stepped overhangs. Easily up a short broken buttress to a ledge. Pull up into a small groove below the first overhang and go rightwards around this to reach a ledge. Up to a second roof and over this to good holds. Climb up leftwards to a slot below another overlap. Crux moves up left and over this to reach a thin ramp/flake then better holds lead to the lower offs.

15.04.2023 K Phizacklea, P Whillance

④ Stone Cold Sober F6c+ New 22m

Climb a slim right-facing corner/flake in the middle of the grey wall for 7m to a good ledge. Step left and up into a corner in the overlaps. Pull out left to a ledge (junction with previous route) then follow cracks rightwards with increasing difficulty to another overlap. Pull up over this then leftwards on better finishing holds.

7.04.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

The next 2 routes start up a short V-groove on the right side of a clean grey slabby wall.

5 Stepping Stones F5+ New 15m

A good route. Climb the groove then follow stepped corners leading leftwards into the centre of the face. Go up ledges slightly rightwards then direct to the lower offs.

15.04.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

6 Tombstone F6a New 15m

Climb the groove then take the cracks up the right side of the wall and make an awkward move up left to reach finishing ledges.

15.04.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea



Bursting Stone Quarry - Centre

7 Bloodstone F6a+ New 12m

Starts 20m right beyond an unstable-looking red section of rock. Climb a steep groove, pulling out right to gain good ledges. Cross the wall leftwards to another ledge then up steeply to an awkward finish.

3.04.2023 P Whillance, A Towse

8 Short Fuse F6a New 13m

Start 5m right of [Bloodstone](#) at an obvious left facing groove line. The route is named after a 10cm length of fuse wire protruding from the rock at head height. Move up right and climb a short groove to a broken ledge on the left. Step up right into the main V groove and climb this to a ledge on the left. Follow the rib and slab above to the lower offs (avoiding the final loose section of the groove).

(Originally climbed as a trad route, cleaned and retro bolted July 2023).

closed: route

18.06 2021 N Coe, P Kelly

9 Dragon Stone F6c New 16m

Start 10m right at a clean grey wall. Climb the slim right-facing corner to a big ledge. Move left and climb a difficult thin crack in the wall to reach the main corner. Steeply up this to the lower offs.

3.04.2023 P Whillance, A Towse

10 Romancing the Stone F7a New 16m

Thin technical climbing up the centre of the smooth wall. A bit reach dependent but excellent.

3.04.2023 P Whillance, A Towse



Bursting Stone Quarry RHS

The final 3 climbs lie well to the right, past a loose-looking section of rock, on a short wall by the entrance to the Main Wall of the quarry. The most prominent feature here is a left-trending broken corner and rampline.

11 Bunny Hop F6a New 10m

Climb the broken corner easily up leftwards to a ledge at 4m. Step back right and up a short slim groove to a ledge. Continue past a couple more ledges to the lower-offs..

15.06.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

12 Hand Jive F6a+ New 10m

Climb [Bunny Hop](#) to the third bolt. Take the obvious hand traverse line rightwards across the wall to gain the arete. Follow the edge of the wall to the lower offs. Better than it looks.

5.07.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

13 Thermodynamics F6c New 10m

Climb the arête right of [Hand Jive](#) on its leaning right-hand side to reach a ledge on [Hand Jive](#). Finish up this.

7.08.2023 P Whillance, A Towse

The Top Tier

SPORT (FRENCH) 

Introduction

The following routes are situated at the right-hand end of the top tier of the quarry. The best approach is by walking along the top of [The Main Wall](#) to reach a gap and short descent to gain the top tier level. Direct approaches up the scree slopes are not recommended. The highest part of this tier forms an open corner of overhanging walls, the left side consisting of a leaning black wall with a huge and scary-looking detached pinnacle at its base, and the right side being a grey/green bow-shaped wall with steep grooves and crack lines. This latter is Bow Wall and currently has 3 routes. Some 30m left of this is a cleaned white slab with an obvious crack.

① White Slab F6a+ New 10m

Climb the obvious crack in the slab to lower-offs on the left.

5.7.2023 K Phizacklea, P Whillance



Bursting Stone Quarry Top Tier

The Bow Wall

② Quiver F7a+ New 14m

Takes an elegant looking, right-facing, tapering groove in the upper part of the wall. Start directly below this. Awkward moves up the initial wall to gain a horizontal bore slot then a block on the right. Up the steep wall above to better holds on the right before a tricky traverse left can be made to gain the main groove line. Climb this with a difficult exit to reach a large ledge and the lower offs.

14.07.2023 K Phizacklea, P Whillance

③ Curvature F6c+ New 13m

4m right is a steep left-trending crack and groove line. Start up a short groove to gain a large block and slabby shelf at the base of the overhanging wall. Tricky moves trend leftwards past an horizontal bore slot then steeply up the wall above to a resting niche below the final short V-groove. Awkward moves up this lead to a large ledge and lower-offs.

9.07.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea

④ Broken Arrow F7a New 13m

Just right of [Curvature](#) is a rightwards-slanting flake crack in the middle of the wall. Start as for [Curvature](#) to gain the large block and slabby shelf below the overhanging wall. Step right and make steep moves up the wall to reach the start of the flake crack. Up this rightwards to where it ends then use a flake/flange on the wall above to swing left and gain a slabby ramp. Climb the still tricky ramp rightwards to a big ledge and lower offs.

14.07.2023 P Whillance, K Phizacklea