

Rylstone

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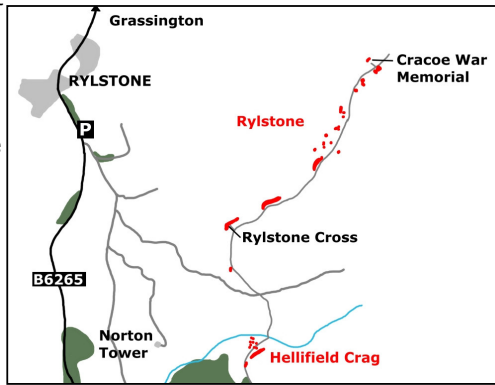
- 57 problems
- Grades from V0- to V10
- High moorland setting.
- Approach: 30-45 minutes walk

Introduction

Rylstone is the name given to the long broken escarpment on the hillside above the village of Rylstone, some five miles north of Skipton. There is a lot of rock here, ranging from the large buttress beneath Rylstone Cross and the main crag nearby, to numerous small isolated boulders stretching along the edge of the moor to Cracoe Memorial. The boulders give some superb climbing. Roof problems abound, and there are plenty of more technical slabs and walls as well. Being a long way from the road, the boulders are usually deserted. There are many more problems than are described here, particularly around the right-hand end of the main crag, and below Heartbeat City.

Access and Directions

Park in a small lay-by (grid ref 971585) just south of Rylstone village on the road to Skipton. Walk south along the road for a short way to pick up a bridleway. Follow this to a signpost by a gate, marking the edge of the Barden Moor access area. Go through the gate and follow the path up the hill, past a plantation, reaching the edge of the moor between Rylstone Cross and Hellifield Crag (30 minutes walk to this point). The quarried buttress above is Warm Up Buttress – there are a few boulder problems here.



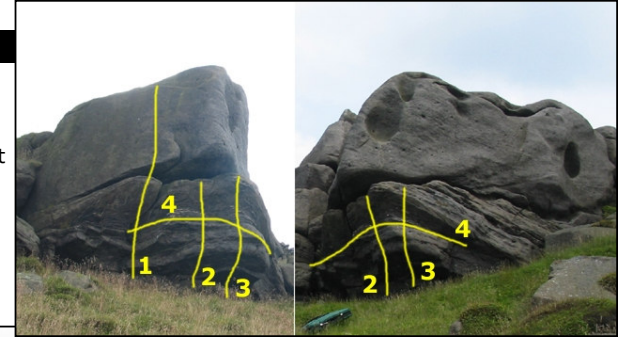
To reach the areas described in this guide, follow the faint path beneath Warm Up Buttress to Rylstone Cross. Continue along the edge of the moor past the main crag, and on past the next buttress (Heartbeat City, recognisable from a scary-looking arête with slabs either side), to eventually reach another small buttress, Solo Games. The rest of the boulders are spread out across the hillside beyond.

Overview



Solo Games

This area consists of several large boulders and buttresses. The left-most buttress has a blank undercut vertical wall, with a prominent short flake crack (For My Next Trick). Across the gully is a buttress with two high, narrow slabs, and a large block further down the hillside. Finally, a gully further right has a worthwhile problem.

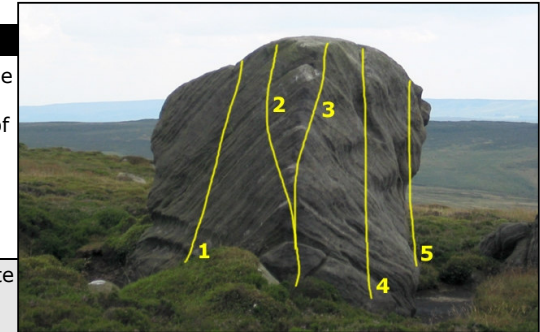


- 1 **V1 For My Next Trick.** The vertical wall via the short has some interesting moves.
- 2 **V1** Climb the left side of the roof from a sit-start, finishing at the break.
- 3 **V2** A similar problem just to the right.
- 4 **V5** Traverse the lip of the roof from right to left.
- 5 **E3 Little Peach.** The thin slab has a dodgy landing. A route rather than a boulder problem.
- 6 **D** The wide crack in the arête.
- 7 **V2 Solo Games.** The slab has a good landing but the crux is a long way up.

- 8 **V0** The right side of the arête on the lower boulder has nice climbing.
- V?** The flake crack in the gully to the right.

Moorland Boulder

This boulder lies on the moorland side of the wall. The central arête is excellent, and there are more good problems either side of it. Unfortunately the rock is a bit gritty and needs further cleaning, and the landing is usually flooded after extended periods of rain.

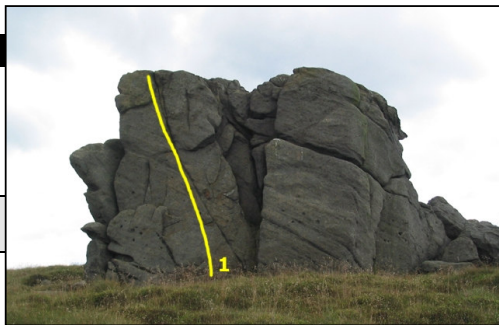


- 1 **V3** The centre of the left wall of the arête via a thin crack.
- 2 **V2** The left side of the arête, starting from directly beneath it.
- 3 **V2** The right side of the arête, with the option of a sit-start. Excellent, with a tricky top.
- 4 **V2** The wall just right of the arête - trickier than it looks.
- 5 **V0-** The vague right arête.

Distant Gem

Back on the valley side of the wall, this solitary buttress has a steep front face, split by a crack. It's a bit too big and broken to be of much interest.

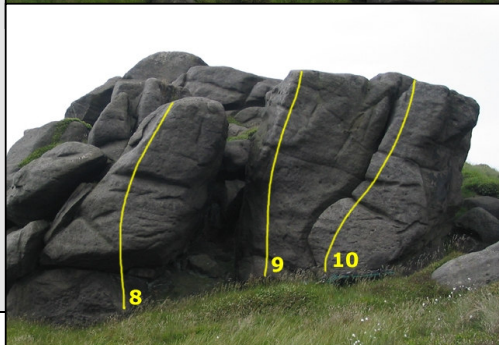
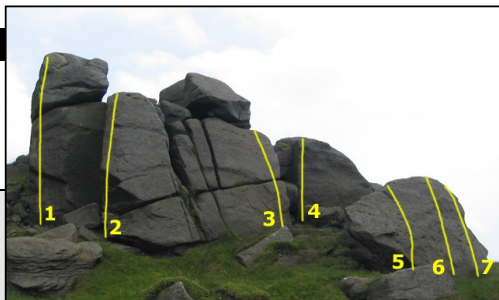
- 1 **HVS** The layback crack left of the chimney.



Bondi Beach

Further down the hillside Distant Gem is this collection of boulders. There are some nice problems here, with plenty in the lower grades, and a couple of highball problems.

- 1 **V?** **Bondi Beach**. The vertical arête is high.
- 2 **V?** **Surfer's Paradise**. The superb slabby arête. High!
- V0**- The wide crack in the short slab.
- 3 **V1** The right arête of short slab.
- 4 **V1** Across the gully is this very short arête.
- 5 **V0**- The left side of the lower slab on rough, pebbly rock.
- 6 **V1** The highest part of the slab gives a good problem.
- 7 **V0** The right side of the slab is also good.
- 8 **V?** The pillar round the corner to the right. Needs cleaning.
- 9 **V2** The arête is excellent.
- 10 **V0** The wide crack is better than it looks.

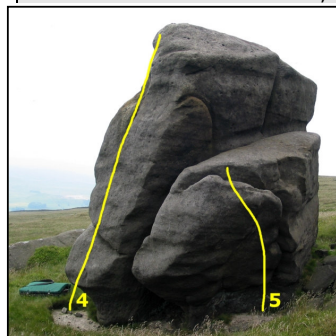
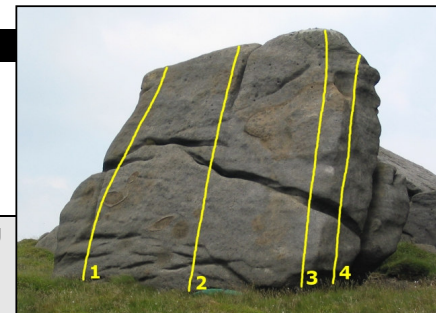


The Pinnacle

This big pinnacle is fairly obvious. It's most notable for the slab-padding problems on the front face, which feel quite scary despite a good landing. Descent from the top is via the steeper but shorter east side, and is not completely trivial!

V6 Chalky Digits. The narrow slab left of the big front face. The obvious line of pockets leads to a mantel finish.

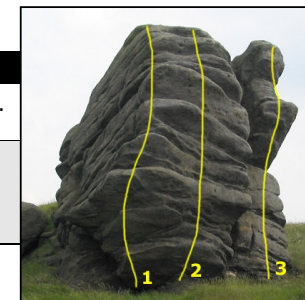
- 1 **V0** The right side of the left arête.
- 2 **V?** The centre of the slab, via the hanging crack.
- 3 **V2** The slabby side of the right arête is the best problem here - delicate and insecure.
- 4 **V?** The right side of the arête.
- 5 **V1** And now for something different! The crack on the steep side of the boulder, from a sit start, with a mantel finish.



The Roof

This boulder just beyond the pinnacle has a big, jug-covered roof.

- 1 **V2** The roof at its highest point from a sit start. Superb jug-hauling.
- 2 **V1** The wall just right of the roof is also nice.
- 3 **V1** Right of the deep crack is another roof - climb it direct.

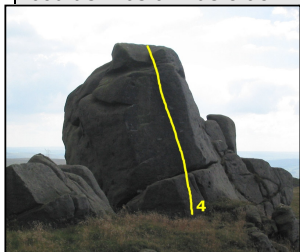


Cocoa Team Special

This huge boulder is easily recognisable, with the hanging crack of Cocoa Team Special being an obvious challenge.

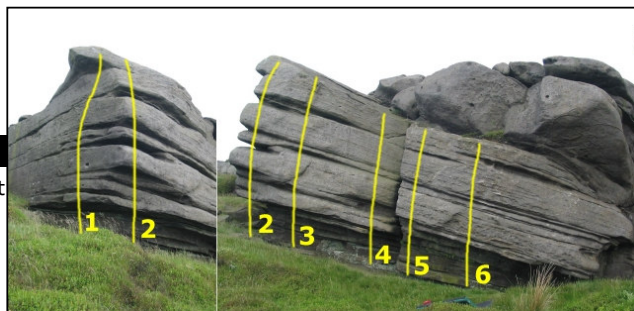


- 1 **V10 Cocoa Team Special.** The hanging crack in the overhanging wall on the Rylstone Cross side of the boulder.
- 2 **V? Project.** The big rounded arête has a few holds and might be possible.
- 3 **V7 Inner Reaches.** The big steep east side of the boulder has a wide crack. This problem climbs the superb-looking right side of the arete.



- 4 **V1 Dirty Slapper.** The opposite side of the boulder has a green slab. This problem climbs the right arête of the slab. Good but dirty.

V1 Oh No The Wimmin Know. The right side of the same arête.



The Outcrop

The next rocky outcrop is a short distance away. It's quite extensive, being high and broken in the centre, with smaller buttresses either side. The best bouldering is on the

left-most buttress - undercut and split by a vertical crack, there are several problems with optional sit-starts, and scope for traverses. The central buttress is too high and broken to be of bouldering interest, apart from a short arête at the left end. Further right another undercut boulder may have some worthwhile bouldering, but is not detailed here.

- 1 **V2** A good problem, climbing the wall left of the arête from a sit start via a round pocket.
- 2 **V?** The right side of the arête, from a sit start.
- 3 **V?** The centre of wall starting at a good hold in the break.
- 4 **V?** The left arête of the crack.
- 5 **V?** The right arête of the crack, from a sit start.
- 6 **V?** The right side of the arête, from a sit start.
- 7 **V?** At the left side of the bay is this short vertical arête with a bad landing.
- 8 **V1** Further right is a short arête, which gives a good problem from a sit start.



Poetry In Motion

The final area is on the moorland side of the wall, not far short of the War Memorial. An obvious clean high buttress of excellent rock, with superb climbing - the best at Rylstone.



- 1 **V2** From a sit start climb the overhanging nose, finishing on the right.

2 **V0 Memorial Wall.**

The centre of the slabby wall with a tricky rockover at the top.

3 **V? Ghostbuster.** The rib between the two buttresses.

4 **V? Moorland Apparition.** The left arête of the main buttress, with the assistance of the wide crack.

V? Ghost Road. Using the right edge of the crack, climb the centre of the wall.

5 **V3 Poetry In Motion.** The superb arête, climbed on its left side.

V? Wordsworth Fail Me. The arête on its right. It's possible to escape onto Poetry in Motion before the final tricky move.

6 **V? The White Doe.** The centre of the slab, with a long reach to an enormous pocket.

V? The Verge of Tranquillity. The smooth slab between the arête and The White Doe.

7 **V1 Emily Norton.** The superb right-hand arête.

Feedback

- If you find this guide useful please post your comments & grade votes on the Rylstone page on yorkshiregrit.com.
- If you know of any worthwhile problems not recorded here, please tell us about them! E-mail feedback@yorkshiregrit.com or fill in the form on the contact page on the website (www.yorkshiregrit.com/contact.jsp).

Acknowledgements

This guide includes information previously published in:

- "Yorkshire Gritstone", compiled by Dave Musgrove for the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club, 1998.