

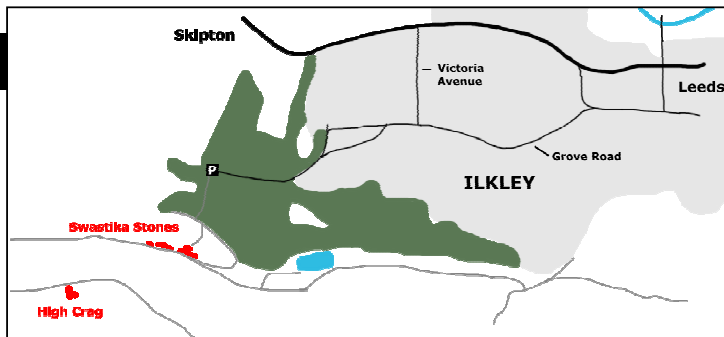
## Swastika Stones

### Introduction

This collection of boulders lies on the edge of Ilkley Moor a couple of miles west of the famous Cow and Calf, and is named after an ancient carving on top of one of the boulders. Although not a well known area there are some excellent problems here, mainly in the lower grades up to V4. The crag is north facing, but dries quickly, and has fine views over Ilkley and Lower Wharfedale.

### Access and Directions

From the centre of Ilkley, follow the main road towards Skipton. Turn into Victoria Avenue at the edge of the town, then turn right at the next T junction into Grove Road. Follow this road out of the town to a point where it narrows at a "no through road" sign. Park here, and take the path up through the woods to the open hillside. The crag is obvious above. About ten minutes walk.



High Crag on the hillside above the edge, about ten minutes walk from the Swastika Stone, has more good climbing – see the High Crag guide.

### Overview



The Swastika Stone is a carving on the top of the biggest part of the edge, surrounded by metal bars to protect it from damage. There is no climbing on this buttress. The bouldering is on the boulders surrounding it, and on a series of small buttresses stretching along the edge to the west.

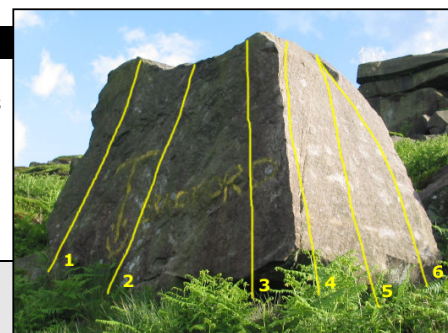


### Swastika Stones

- 35 problems
- Grades from V0- to V8 (mainly V0 to V4)
- North facing but quick drying
- Approach: 10 minutes walk

### Grafitti Wall

The boulder lowest down the hillside is easily recognised from the graffiti on the front. It consists of two slabs separated by a sharp arête. The problems on the front face feel a bit scary, being quite high with a less than perfect landing; the problems on the other slab are excellent with good landings.



- 1 **V1** The left side of the steep slab.
- 2 **V2** The centre of the slab. Dodgy landing.
- 3 **V0** The left side of the arête.
- 4 **V0** The arête on its right is excellent.
- 5 **V4** The centre of the slab on pebbles and smears.
- 6 **V2** The right edge of the slab, using a poor pocket but avoiding the arête.

### Harris' Slab

Further right, and further up the hillside is another boulder with a slabby front face. Nice problems on good rock.



- 1 **V2** The groove left of the smooth slab. Don't use the big jug on the right wall, but use the layaway above it. Good but contrived.
- 2 **V2 Harris' Slab.** The smooth slab is scary with the crux at the top.
- 3 **V0** The arête on the slabby side. Excellent.
- 4 **V0** The arête on the steep side from a sit-start.
- V1** The wall beside the arete, again from a sit-start.



The next boulder up has an overhanging front face with two good problems.

- 1 **V3** Hand traverse the lip of the overhanging boulder from left to right.
- 2 **V3** Slap your way up the blunt arête from a sit start. Good.



**Harris' Arete**

The broken edge above the last boulder has a couple of technical problems, but the rock is poor.

- 1 **V2 Harris' Arête.** The technical little arête.
- 2 **V1** Nice moves up the rib. A variation moves right at the top on slopers.

**Green Prow**

This area lies at the left hand end of the main edge, isolated from the other areas and much further left (looking in).

- 1 **V1** The big blunt arête is dirty, high and scary.
- 2 **V3 Green Wall.** The slab beside the prow.
- 3 **V3 The Prow.** The front of the prow. Good moves but the rock is painfully sharp.
- V4** The right side of the arête has a nice move.

**Christmas Day Arete**

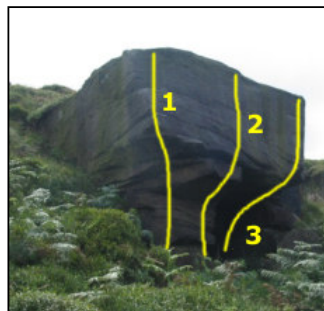
This big, square-cut block lies to the right of the Swastiak Stone (looking in). It has a right-angled arête, which is an excellent problem on both sides.

- 1 **V2 Christmas Day Arête.** The left side of the arête is balancy and dynamic.
- 2 **V3 Christmas Day Arête.** The right side of the arête is also balancy and dynamic, and slightly harder than the other side.
- 3 **V2** The blunt rib further right is climbed by a series of slaps for slopers. Better than it looks.

**Barn Door Arete**

Fifty yards further right is a smooth wall with one of the classics of the crag – Barn Door Arête.

- 1 **V2 Barn Door Arête.** Climb the arête to an interesting finish.
- 2 **V? Project.** The line of small crimps up the wall.
- 3 **V4 Project.** Just right again, a shorter line of crimps.



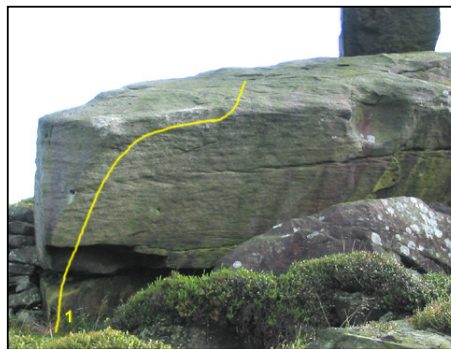
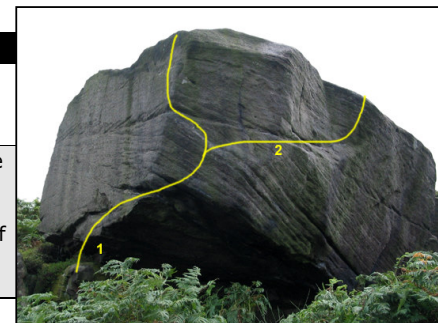
The next boulder is undercut and is home to most of the crag's hardest problems.

- 1 **V? Project.** The left arête of the boulder.
- 2 **V4** The centre of the boulder past a rubbish crimp.
- 3 **V8** The right arête, from the back of the roof on friable flakes. Looks good.

**Walking the Dog**

The next boulder is also severely undercut. There are a couple of classic problems here.

- 1 **V4 Walking The Dog.** Traverse the jugs on the lip of the roof to a powerful finish up the left side of the arête. Superb climbing.
- 2 **V8 The Absconded Dog Extension.** Instead of finishing up the arête, continue along the obvious line of slopers to a difficult top-out.

**Project Boulder**

There is only one line on this boulder, and it has yet to be climbed.

- 1 **V? Project.** Sit start, up the arête, traverse the sloping lip to a final mantel.

**Jerry's Traverse**

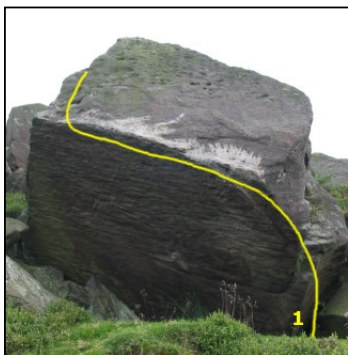
The next boulder has a slabby face and arête. The left arête and centre of the slab are obvious problems, but the landings are poor – climb them if you're brave enough! The rock is also poor.

1 **V1** The arête of the boulder. Dirty.



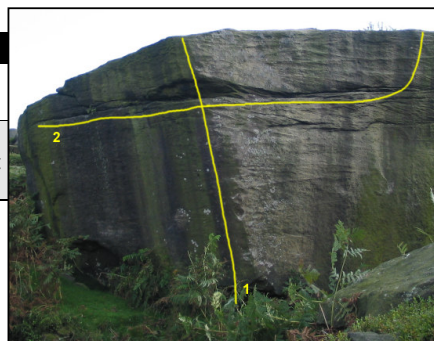
Below the previous boulder is this block with an overhanging front face. The problem is excellent but unfortunately the rock isn't the best, and could do with more cleaning (or more traffic).

1 **V5 Jerry's Traverse.** Traverse the lip of the lower boulder from right to left, with a sit start and a rockover onto the slab to finish.

**Slimeball Traverse**

The next boulder along the edge of the moor.

1 **V2** The central arête.  
2 **V2 Slimeball Traverse.** Traverse the break just below the top of the boulder from left to right.

**Megalith**

The final boulder lies a short way further on. Unfortunately the ground drops away steeply below this boulder.

1 **V3 Megalith.** The fine slab and arête.

**Acknowledgements**

- This topo includes information previously published in Mark Radtke's topo on The Leeds Wall website ([www.theleedswall.com](http://www.theleedswall.com)).

**Feedback**

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