

# Stony Bank Sport Routes Mini-Guide Spring 2009

By Paul Clarke and Dave Musgrove. Diagrams by Nigel Baker

**Restrictions apply from 15 February - 31 May. Reason - Nesting Birds  
The whole crag is restricted if the raven's are nesting.**

## **BOLTS**

**The cost of replacement and of establishing new routes has and will continue to be great and you might consider making a contribution if you are using this supplement.** Cheques should be made payable to The Yorkshire Bolt Fund and sent to Dave Musgrove at 11, Wynmore Avenue, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 9DD. A Paypal account will be found on the Leeds Wall website. Cheques are preferable since Paypal always take a cut. The Bolt Fund has two sections - replacement and new routes. If you would prefer your donation to go to only one of these then please inform Dave.

**WARNING: Climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.**

**Many of these climbs have had few ascents. Whilst care has been taken, the authors accept no responsibility for the accuracy of the descriptions or towards those choosing to attempt any of these routes – to do so is your choice.**

## The Stony Bank Valley

There are three sport main areas in the Stony Valley (above Goredale); the Main and Platypus Buttresses at High Stony Bank and Low Stony Bank. All are best accessed from the parking place on the road above Malham Cove (see YMC guide).

### HIGH STONY BANK

Recent development has found some very worthwhile lines between the trad routes. Although one or two of these have some poor rock and require care (possibly a helmet too!) the location is lovely and a visit worthwhile. All these routes are currently well bolted, but a couple of the early ones (2007) with glue-in non-stainless steel that will need watching for corrosion. Don't forget to bring your rack to do the classic old trad route; Oedipus!

#### Main Buttress

##### 20a Dead Kinky 17m F6b+ \*

Climb the pillar between Necrophilia and Squirm Crack to a bulging exit onto a grassy bank. Lower-off on the wall above.  
22.8.08 Dave Musgrove, Nigel Baker

##### 30a Summertime (and the weather is lousy) 20m F6b \*\*

A very good new addition. Layback the flake left of the start of Sorotchinsky to a ledge. Step up and right then follow nice layaways to a good jug. Continue up the groove above to another ledge and surmount the bulge direct on good holds.  
July 2007 Colin Binks, Glyn Edwards, Jo Kilner and Angela Soper

##### 33a Zoar 18m F6a \*

Steep climbing and good holds – a nice warm-up. Layback the flake just left of the start of Sodom and continues direct to a cave. Leave the cave steeply, keeping right, on good holds.  
July 2007 Colin Binks, Glyn Edwards, Jo Kilner and Angela Soper

##### 36a Judgement and Justice 18m F6c+/7a

An unbalanced route. Climb the right hand side of the large undercut with a difficult move (left of the bolt and requiring a bit of judgement due to its position) to reach good holds and loose, easy ground. Go carefully up and left to take the short upper wall.  
June 2007 Colin Binks and Glyn Edwards.

##### 38a Pillar of Salt 18m F6a+

A well-named climb up the rib between Lust and Diva, moving onto the buttress left of Lust's chimney. Gain the cave, taking care with the rock, and leave it on the right to reach a slab with a good hold.  
July 2007 Colin Binks, Glyn Edwards, Jo Kilner and Angela Soper

##### 39a Stony Broke 18m F6b+ \*

A good climb, but with a loose section below the top roof. Climb the wall between Lust and Come On and continue, crossing Diva to reach the fine groove through the bulges.  
June 2007 Colin Binks, Glyn Edwards, Angela Soper.

##### 40a Headless Hammer 20m F6b+ \*\*

Romp up the wall right of Come On to a ledge. Sustained and interesting climbing using some reinforced holds, with a noticeable crux to gain the headwall, lead to the top. Lower-off situated well back in good rock.  
16.08.08 Glyn Edwards, Nigel Baker

#### Platypus Buttress

A little downstream of the main face – numbered as on the diagram.

##### 1 Harlot 15m F7a+/b \*\*

Pull up to the rib right of the vegetated groove (of Wild Thing VS) and follow it to where things get smooth. A tricky sequence gains good holds, easier ground and eventually a lower-off.  
21/09/08 John Hunt

##### 2 Crazy Little Devil 14m F7a \*\*

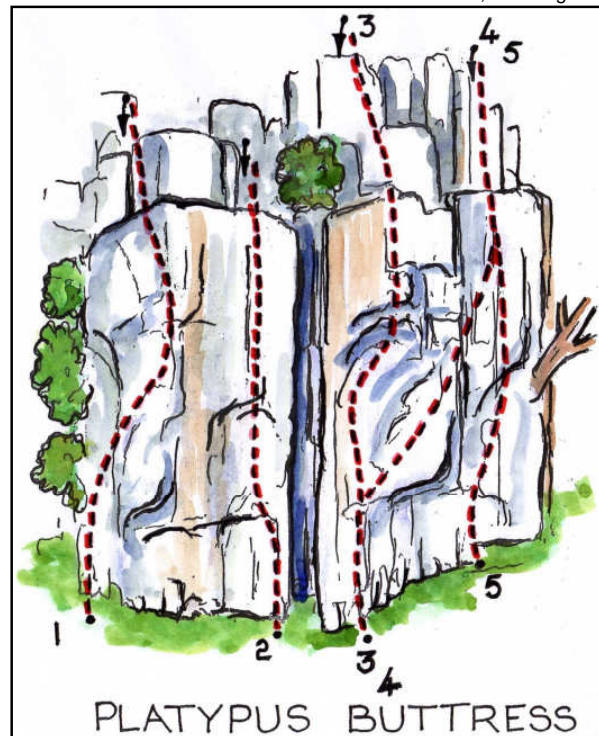
A steep wall and tenuous, thin crack just left of Platypus.  
22.08.08 Nigel Baker, Dave Musgrove

##### 3 The Jericho Incident 15m F6c+ \*

Start above the dry-stone wall, just right of Platypus. A long move off layaway holds gains a slot. Rock up, reaching leftwards to high layaways below the bulge and then a crack leads into the upper niche. Pleasant climbing above this gains the lower-off.  
20.08.08 Glyn Edwards, Dave Musgrove, Nigel Baker



Glyn Edwards on Headless Hammer



**4 Berlin** 15m F7b \*\*

Make the initial moves of Jericho Incident to gain the slot. Move up and then to the right to follow undercuts and side-pulls to below the central thin cracks. Using the edge on the right follow these to gain the good holds above. Finish more easily to the belay on Wicked Ways. 27.09.08 Paul Clarke

**5 Wicked Ways** 14m F6b+ \*

Climb the steep flakes and cracks to the left of the mid-height ash tree moving right at one point. 30.08.08 Nigel Baker, Nick Dalzell, Dave Musgrove

**LOW STONY BANK**

Rapidly developing into a very good venue with new bolt lines and some cleaning of the trad lines. The YL 2005 guidebook grades of the older routes ought to be treated with extreme caution as, despite some being good, neglect and the growth of vegetation has affected their seriousness and difficulty. Care has been taken in an attempt to avoid bolting near the older routes but the traversing nature of some of these means they are crossed in places. On Optic Nerve and Visionhurry the bolts are non-stainless glued bar and an eye should be kept open for corrosion.

As mentioned in the guide, a line of fragile rock crosses the crag at half height and needs to be treated with care (or glue!). Despite this the setting is quiet, has a remote feel and the routes are very good with numerous repeats already confirming the quality - well worth the walk.

**Two Tier Walls**

Near the left end, above and left of the old dry-stone wall is the obvious two tiered walls. The new start or a scramble along the ledge can be used to access the routes above the lower tier.

**Marginal Path** 24m F7a+ \*

An unusual sport route best done as two pitches, though both can be climbed separately with a scramble along the (rather dodgy) grassy ledge

P1 12m F6b The smooth looking wall above the obvious cave in the lower tier leads to a ledge. Step up right and then up the grassy ledge. Double bolt belay on the right side of the alcove.

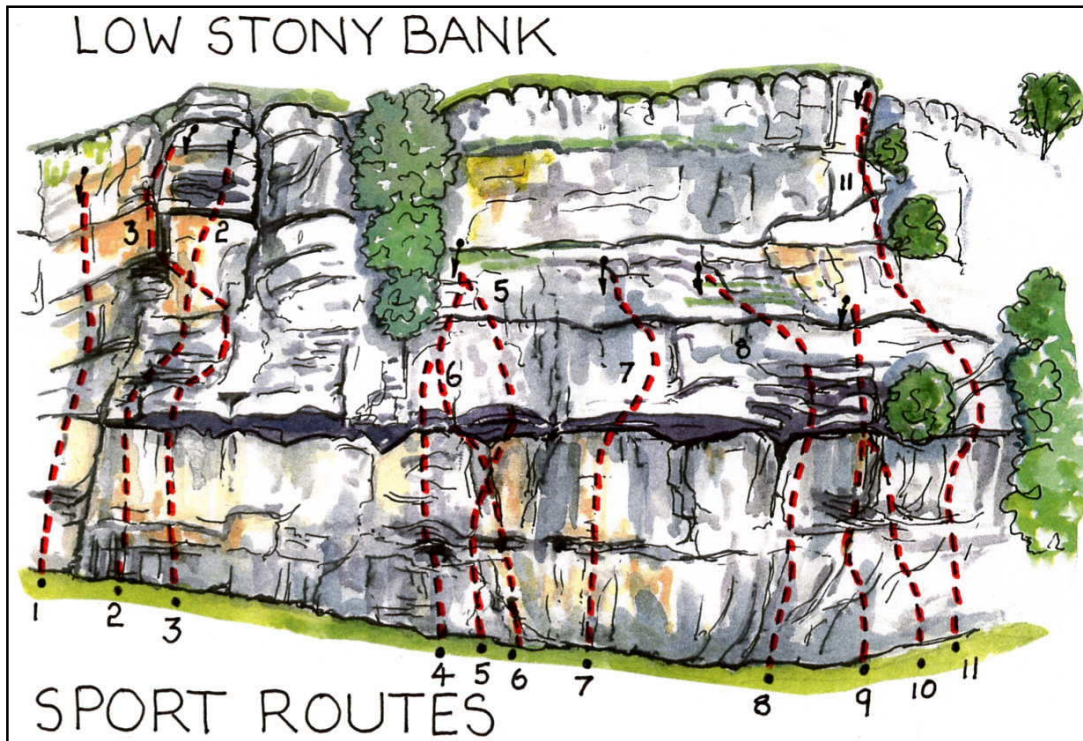
P2 12m F7a+ Climb the right rib of the alcove until a pocket is reached. Use a very sloping hold to gain cracks to the left and a side hold that allows either the final crack of OL to be reached or a more testing finish, right and up.

24.07.08 John Hunt, Paul Clarke. The first pitch had been done two days earlier by the same team and Nigel Baker

**Main Wall**

To the right of the dry-stone wall an open corner – the start of the old route KD

**Sport routes are numbered as on the diagram.**



**1 Optical Illusion** 20m F6b+

A rather loose route that starts just left of the corner of KD. Climb the interesting wall with one very long reach to the ledge (much harder than anything else on the route). Pull over the bulge and move left to the headwall that can be climbed using the cracks either left or right of the bolts. June/ July 2008 Colin Binks, Glyn Edwards, Angela Soper.

**2 Optic Nerve** 30m F6c + \*\*

Climb the wall just right of the starting corner of K.D. and use the nose to surmount the roof (long clip useful to prevent the rope running over a sharp edge). Step right and climb the steep wall on good holds to reach the lower traverse of K.D. Step right again and take the smooth wall and capping roof direct. August 2007 Colin Binks, Glyn Edwards, Angela Soper.

**3 An Eye for the Elegant** 22m F7a \*\*\*

A good find. From below the line looks to wander but it flows nicely. The wall and flakes lead to the roof. Pass this to better holds then traverse steeply right to gain a line of good flakes that lead up to a resting place. Step up for a move or two until below the white area of the smooth slab of Optic Nerve, clip a bolt high on the left then swing across to a good jug in the hanging cleft to the left. Gritstone Gurus will grovel up this, whilst those with an eye for the elegant will spot the good layaway high on the left rib and cruise to the waiting ledge. Step up and move around the steep rib to the lower-off. 20.07.08 Paul Clarke, Nick Dalzell



Halfway along the crag are 3 holes that form a down-pointing triangle. Above the left hole are two niches, below the overhang.

**4 Frequent Flyer** 22m F7a \*\*

Follow a flake to a shallow cave that is just to the left of the left-hand eye. Gain a good undercut in the cave roof and move up and slightly left then back right to make a long move for an obvious jug and then better holds lead to the break (knee bar rest if needed). Pull up to good holds just to the right of the looseness of Bungle in the Jungle and use these to join the finish of Visionhurry. 20.09.08 Paul Clarke, Nigel Baker

**5 A Play of Light** 22m F7a+ \*\*

Start just left of and below the left-hand 'eye'. Move up and follow the white nose to good holds just left of the eye. Make a couple of hard moves up using a flat hold and tiny undercut to gain an obvious horizontal break and pull across into the niche of Visionhurry. Climb over the large roof to gain a sloping ledge (that is also gained from the right by Paranoid Eyes). Go up and slightly left to clip a high bolt and either go straight up or slightly to the left, either way joining the final moves of Visionhurry.

18.08.08 Paul Clarke.

A variation (F7a+) from below the niche is to pull up the grey rib to a much thinner break and a big swing left to a finger hold on the left end of the slopers. Use this to gain the big break on Frequent Flyer.

22.07.08 Paul Clarke

**6 Visionhurry** 22m F6c \*\*\*

One of the best of its grade in Yorkshire. Climb the vague pillar directly to the left hand 'eye'. Take a longish step to the right and continue with good climbing on hidden holds, up and into the left hand niche (thread). Move left under the roof and pull up to a good jug from where a stiff pull gains a thin flake on the right and then an interesting step up to some jugs. Follow big finishing holds to a belay up on the right.

August 2007 Colin Binks, Glyn Edwards, Angela Soper.

**7 Cliptomania** 25m F7a+/b \*\*\*

A steep, varied and quite impressive outing, starting just to the right of Happy Wanderer. Climb the wall to some huge holds at the right-hand hole. The smooth wall above leads to the roof and a brief respite. Cross the roof using the obvious flake and then swing up and to the right to gain another line of flakes. Easier climbing up these leads to a lower-off. 01.07.08 Paul Clarke



To the right is an obvious grey pillar (**Slab Climber's Maxim**) and to the right of that, a shallow corner that deepens with height and leads to a fine looking cave.

**8 Cave Route Upper-hand** 25m F6b+ \*\*

Looks quite wild for the grade but with surprising holds – a fine line but loosish start.

Hidden holds on the right wall of the shallow groove lead to a large flake and the cave. Step right and pull through the impressive roof to big holds at the lip. Step up and to the left to follow a clean rib to the belay. 27.07.08 Nigel Baker, Paul Clarke

**9 Pulling Into Focus** 18m F7a \*

The prominent nose on the right side of the crag with a distinct crux. Starts on the left of the platform created by some enormous boulders. Climb the wall slightly leftwards to gain a hole/ledge. Step up and follow the hanging nose with a couple of tough pulls to gain excellent holds below the ledge. Pull onto this and then up the bulge and rib above as for the next route. 24.07.08 Paul Clarke

**10 Pince Nez** 18m F6a+ \*

Start just right and below the Yew Tree on Happy Wanderer. Climb the lower wall to a groove and crack on the right of the nose. Move steeply up and gain the ledge. A fun alternative is to make a blind span left around the arête to good holds on Pulling into Focus and pull up to the ledge. Another short prow leads to a bulging rib and lower-off. 1.7.08 Glyn Edwards, Dave Musgrove

**11 Norwegian Wood** 30m F6b+ \*\*

A long and varied pitch above the platform – just possible using a 60m rope. Climb easily up to a short thin crack and climb this to a ledge. Pull over a bulge and up to a hanging corner/slab on the right. The bulge is crossed with some difficulty to hidden holds above. Step left and continue more easily on good rock up the pillar. Move up and right to the final tree before swinging back left around the upper arête to good holds and then more easily up and slightly right to a hidden belay above the rib. June 2008 Glyn Edwards, Angela Soper

*Colin Binks 'wood' have been on the 1<sup>st</sup> ascent if he hadn't gone to Norway.*

On the opposite bank of the river is **Stump Wall**, an overhanging 8m wall of superb, water-worn rock. A line mentioned in the guide **The Stump** 6m (E1?) 5c climbs the obvious flakes in the middle – where the wall is at its lowest and the ground below is flat. To the left of this are currently three bolt lines the first taking the left edge of the wall.

**A Little Trip to Heaven** 8m F6b+/6c \*

The low roof is tackled on undercuts and then a tricky pull leads to flakes (by the handful) and a belay. 31.08.08 Paul Clarke

**A Touch of Magic** 8m F7a/7a+ \*\*

The line to the right has quite tough moves on layaways, crimps and more layaways until the pre-belay jugs arrive. Single ring belay. 29.07.08 Paul Clarke

**Hope and a Little Sugar** 7m F7a+/b \*\*

A reach for a hole, above which stiff pulls on layaways gains the obvious flake/pillar then bigger holds. Single ring belay 29.07.08 Paul Clarke