

Mallerstang Edge



Overhung Top - Aaron Moran - photo John Proctor

WARNING

You climb at your own risk. Climbing is a dangerous activity carrying the risk of serious injury or death. If you climb, the presumption is that you are aware of and accept these risks together with responsibility for your activities and your safety.

You are the sole judge of conditions, the suitability of any chosen route, the ability of the party and you take sole responsibility for your actions.

Rock is a dynamic medium and rockfalls are frequent. In the mountains the weather changes quickly, climbs change unpredictably; blocks, flakes and holds become loose and fall off, rock becomes vegetated and dirty, in situ gear deteriorates or disappears. Even a minor change can have a dramatic effect on the difficulty or seriousness of a route. There can be no presumption that any given climb will be found in the condition described. It is therefore essential that climbers judge the seriousness or difficulty of any route before committing themselves.

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Mallerstang Edge

Grades



These crags are part of the natural gritstone edge, high on the side of High Seat, above Mallerstang. There are some areas of good rock but also lots of choss.

Beware that there are very few natural anchors available at the top of the crag. One is advised to take some stakes and mallet and create belays in the slope above the crag. There are some boulders above [Hangingstone Scar](#) which may be of use.

The Gritstone Club were active here in the early sixties when Roger Sutcliffe and Robin Hobbs visited the crag, which had often attracted attention (from afar). They reported that the major part of the scar was found to be extremely rotten, due to the rapid erosion of a thick shale bed below the 16m of grit. However, short sections of good sound rock occurred at either end.

They climbed a route on the Nose on [High Loven Scar](#) and an obvious right-angled corner/crack (10m S) on [Hangingstone Scar](#).

Karl Lunt went up there in 1989 and again about 2011. They gardened some lines on [Hangingstone Scar](#) but didn't actually climb anything. They attempted a good looking arête but backed off as they didn't have a small enough cam to get the crucial protection.

NEW ROUTES

The topos reveal obvious scope for new routes. So that this guide can be kept relevant, first ascensionists are requested to log their routes with both:-

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so that the guide can be updated.

Access Restrictions

The crags are located in an SSSI. Natural England are happy for climbing to take place here provided that the following rules are respected:

1) No gardening / vegetation removal.

2) Routes should be examined carefully for evidence of nesting birds before climbing. Do not climb a route if there appear to be birds nesting nearby and retreat if nesting birds are inadvertently encountered. Inform Natural England if Peregrine Falcons, Ring Ouzel or Merlin are encountered in the vicinity of the crag.

A voluntary agreement has been made that climbers should restrict their activities to the parts of the crags herewith described



Mallerstang Scar overview

High Loven Scar

TRADITIONAL Uphill WEST facing 

Introduction

Grid Reference NY 798 002 - Altitude 635m

Approach

Parking for several vehicles is available in a layby on the B6259 about 1 km south of Outhgill, where the Pennine Bridleway crosses the road. To approach the crag, follow the bridleway in the south-easterly direction for about 500m then turn left to head directly uphill. There are two tiers, the lower (Low Loven Scar) has no worthwhile climbing. Head either way round the lower tier to reach the upper tier, High Loven Scar.



High Loven Scar LHS

Left-hand area

This is the area at the left end of the crag before it deteriorates further left.

1 High Loven Nose VD  **New** 40ft

This is from the description from the 1960s and the route is thought to be at the left end of the crag. A few yards north of the pinnacle, this pleasant climb was made on the nose of the main buttress.

1 8m Move right from the ledge below the nose of the buttress into a niche. Ascend the groove to the broad rock ledge below the crack on the left.

2 5m Climb the steep wall by the crack to the top,

1962 R Sutcliffe, R Hobbs

2 Mallerstang Master Cave VD  **New** 16m

Follow the chimney up to the ledge then scramble up loose ground to finish.

27.06.2021 A Ritchie, M Finegan, J Proctor.

3 Slava Ukraine HS 4b  **New** 16m

Grovel around for footholds inside the offwidth crack or layback enthusiastically to reach the thank-god holds that coincide with the first gear placement. Continue up easier ground to finish up the left-hand side of the prow.

13.05.2023 J Proctor, P Dawson, M Finegan.

4 Finegan's Folly HS 4b  **New** 17m

Climb up the corner to the ledge. Follow the crack up the steep wall to finish. Pumpy in places with good handholds.

27.06.2021 J Proctor, A Ritchie.

5 Stormshadow VS 4c  **New** 17m

Climb the crack to a brief respite then follow the prow directly to the top. Good gear all the way.

13.05.2023 P Dawson, J Proctor

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★★★

6 Chalk Your Knees ! VD † **New** 15m

Climb the centre of the wall right of [Stormshadow](#) via an undignified series of mantelshelves.

18.07.2021 J Proctor, A Ritchie, M Finegan.



High Loven Scar RHS

Right-hand area

The crag then goes scrappy for a bit until the Right-hand Area

7 Below! D † **New** 19m

Climb up the broken rocks on the left-facing area.

10.07.2022 D Byrnes, D Stacey

8 Loose Bottom HVD † **New** 17m

Start on the wall then left onto the ledge then climb up and further left round the corner then straight up to the top.

10.07.2022 S Percy, A Moran, J Proctor.

9 Over-hung Top HS 4c † **New** 17m

★★

Start as for [Loose Bottom](#) then climb up the slightly overhanging cracks, then up the actual overhang. It is possible to avoid relying too much on the slightly dubious blocks near the top by going a bit more to the right.

10.07.2022 A Moran, S Percy, T Boaz.

10 Isotonic Sports Beer S 4a † **New** 16m

On the narrow buttress just to the left of the main chimney. Start by climbing onto the detached block beneath the bottom of the right-hand side of the buttress. Traverse round on the footholds to the left, up the left hand arête of the buttress then up to a ledge on the buttress. Move back left to finish up the wall facing [Overhung Top](#)..

10.07.2022 J Proctor, D Byrnes, D Stacey

11 The Puttrell Line VD † **New** 17m

Climb the prominent chimney. There is some loose rock in the back of the chimney, but rock on the walls of the chimney is generally good. Climb by mixture of getting into the chimney proper, bridging etc.

10.07.2022 J Proctor, A Moran.

12 Hogget in the Hole VS 4b † **New** 17m

Climb the arête on the right-hand side of the chimney. Use any holds you can reach from a body position near the arête (no need to wear blinkers) but do not bridge across the other side of the chimney as then you really are on [The Puttrell Line](#) instead..

26.06.2022 J Proctor, A Ritchie

The story behind - [Hogget in the Hole](#). Whilst the hilltops around Mallerstang are composed of the finest gritstone, the valley floor is limestone and has caves and potholes. In fact, this is what led to the title of the children's book by Jane Gardam set in Mallerstang "The Hollow Land". On one visit, John Proctor and Alex Ritchie decided to abseil into one of the potholes and then proceed to the crag to climb a new route. When they arrived at the pothole, they found a juvenile sheep (they are called hoggets) stuck in the hole, having fallen in, so Alex abseiled in, controlled the sheep and got some slings round it. Then John hauled it to the surface on the rope. The sheep ran off as soon as it was released (it didn't even stop to say thank you) and they went to the crag to make the first ascent of [Hogget in the Hole](#).

13 **Christmas Plov** **VS 4c** **New** 17m

Right of the main chimney, climb the steep crack with the blocks in via good handholds and trend rightwards (crux) to gain the ledge in the corner. Then trend back to the left, pulling on the block to the next ledge. Climb the right-facing corner then finish up the cracked wall. For the start you need to be tall. For the crux you need to be tall and flexible.

18.07.2021 J Proctor, A Ritchie, M Finegan.

Hangingsstone Scar

Uphill WEST facing 

Introduction

Grid Reference SD 796 994 . - Altitude 610m

Approach

Park as for the approach for High Loven Scar. Follow the bridleway for around 1 km heading south-east then turn left to walk directly up the hill to the crag, which is the prominent gritstone edge at the edge of the plateau.



Hangingsstone Scar

1 Breakfast Plov HS 4b New 14m

Climb the shallow groove placing good gear behind a flake and a sling just above the flake. Traverse out right to reach a big ledge at hand height. Swing up onto this and then up easy ground to finish.

5.06.2022 J Proctor, M Finegan.

2 Jams and Cams HS 4b New 14m

Climb the wall direct to the little hole at half-height then climb up the jamming crack to the ledge, finishing on the wall just right of the arête above.

26.07.2021 M Crosby, A Crosby.

3 Cowboy Builders HVS 4c New 14m

Climb the corner. Easy ground to start leads to a chockstone that can be threaded (if you swing your sling like a cowboy) from a secure bridging position. Sling this, then commit yourself to the layback. The rock is grippy and the layback holds for your hands are good all the way up but footholds are scarce and this layback won't succumb to half-hearted measures. Get your feet up at waist-height! By the time you have finished the committing part of the layback and reached the next gear placement (another chockstone) you would probably deck out if you fell so HVS 4c. Easier ground then leads to the top.

5.06.2022 J Proctor, M Finegan

4 Eating Osh in a Good Oshkhana in Osh HS 4b New 16m

Climb the left-hand of the two cracks in the face. Layback to start then easy ground followed by an overhang with good holds near the crack..

9.08.2022 J Proctor, M Kirvan, S Percy

5 Plov for the Faint-hearted HS 4b New 16m

Climb the right-hand of the two cracks in the wall, bridging on the right being allowed. Trend left over small overhang at the top.

9.08.2022 S Percy, M Kirvan, J Proctor.



Stormshadow
Phil Dawson & John Proctor
photo Michael Finegan

Stormshadow High Loven Scar