

O.S. Sheet 91

G.R. 675179

EDEN VALLEY

The Hoff

This crag will be included in the next FRCC Eastern Craggs guide (due 2008) by **Stewart Wilson**



**FELL and ROCK
CLIMBING CLUB**
of the
English Lake District

The crag in the meadow! The *Hoff* is a strange eruption of lovely vertical conglomerate rising abruptly out of a tranquil pasture above the Hoff Beck.

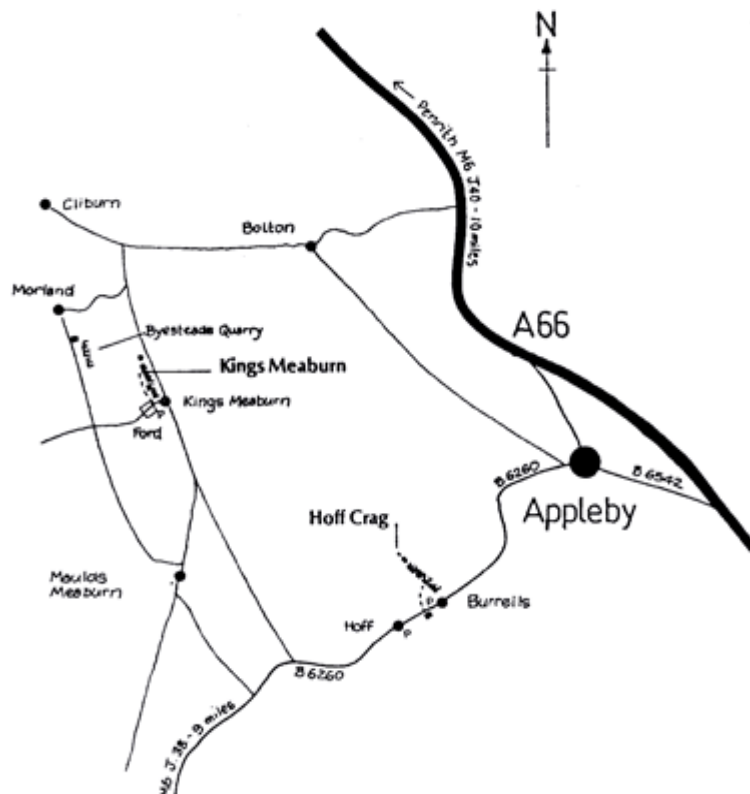
The situation could hardly be bettered, at least not for those operating in the lower grades. The rock, Brockram, is a conglomerate of lumps of sandstone and limestone in a very strong natural cement. The climbing tends to be steep, but the holds are usually good. The rock is clean and dries in minutes and so is good at all times of the year. In damp conditions however the finishes, on the level, turf top can be quite bold.

The topography is quite simple, a single long wall with a short wall at the left end hingeing around a right-angled corner.

Protection is possible, but not entirely trustworthy. The landings however must rate with the best anywhere and for this reason it is popular with solo climbers. If you must top-rope, please extend anchors over the edge of the crag to avoid the horrible grooving of the turf top. If you wish to lead climbs, then it might be a good idea to have an extended anchor to protect the dodgy moves over the top.

Approaches & Access

The *Hoff* is easily reached from either Appleby or from Junction 38 on the M6 at Tebay by following the B 6260. Approaching from Appleby, follow this road through the village of Burrells and beyond, for about 300 metres. On the left-hand side of the road is a bungalow whilst on the right over the hedge the crag is clearly visible. There is room for one vehicle on the verge opposite the bungalow, but lack of vision makes this hazardous to all road users. It is better to continue a further 400 metres and park near the pub at Hoff. It is possible to combine a trip to this crag with a visit to **Kings Meaburn**: from Hoff follow the B6260 in the direction of the M6 for just over a mile to the first junction on the right. Turn right and follow this road to the village of Kings



Meaburn.

The crag at Hoff is approached via a gate into the meadow. The crag is on private land and access has been granted on the understanding that no litter is left or damage done to property, fences etc. There are no public rights of way below the crag or beside the beck. **Dogs must not be taken to the crag.**

Perhaps the most distressing vandalism at the crag is perpetrated by hordes of so called 'academics' bent on knocking hell out of the crag in the name of geology. Please remonstrate if you are unlucky enough to be witness to these acts.

Descents can be made at either end of the crag, but the right-hand end can be very slippery in damp conditions.

The climbs are described from left to right as one faces the crag. The crag has a uniform height of about 8 metres, so heights are omitted in the descriptions. There is a [Virtual Tour](#) of the Hoff on Chris Cant's website.

New York Arete

This is the name given to the arete left of the tree which is left of *Afterthought Wall* .

Apple Sponge VD

Starting at the base of the arete, move slightly leftwards whilst keeping to the right of a small tree. Easy climbing to the top.

Phil Soulsby, Dave Weatherly, 1996

Repeated by Stephen Reid and Chris King 14th October 2005. A good little route but can be started off the rock step on the left at D.

Apple Crumble S

Starting at the base of the arete, climb it direct, via two good ledges, to a thread belay.

Dave Weatherly, Phil Soulsby, 1996

Apple Pie MVS

Start one metre right of the arete.

(4b). Climb the first two metres on good holds. Then avoiding tree branches, finish up loose rock with poor protection.

Dave Weatherly, Phil Soulsby, 1996

Afterthought Wall

The steep wall some metres left of the main crag. It has a steep wall with a stepped arete on the right.

1. Afterthought MS

Climb directly up the steep wall.

2. Little Wall S

Climb the right-hand side of the wall to finish over a bulge at a break in the arete.

Main Wall

3. Afterlife HVS 1988

(5b). Climb the prominent, jutting arete left of the corner, on its right-hand side. Serious.

BC says: Afterlife is HVS 4c, not 5b!

4. The Corner MS

Climb the obvious corner at the left-hand end of the *Main Wall*. Not very good.

5. Going Green MS

Start at the foot of the wall, just right of *The Corner*. Climb the wall in the line of a small tree just below the top.

6. Rainbow HS 4a

Start just right of *Going Green* at a rib, just left of a shallow corner.
Climb the left side of the rib to the top.

7. Dig For Victory MVS

Start below the shallow corner, right of Rainbow.
(4b). Climb the wall just right of the corner and move into the corner to finish.
The Hoff.
TL suggests MVS 4c, suspect rock at top but can get sling on tree to left.

8. The Shades MVS *

Start 2 metres right of the shallow corner.
(4b). Climb the smooth wall and pleausurably surmount the overlap at 3 metres, via a pocket. Climb the shallow runnel directly to the top.
TL suggests VS 4b, bold.

9. The Devon HS

Start below the wall and overlap just left of the steep crack holding a tree.
(4a). Climb the wall and overlap.

10. Mojo MS

The first major crack on *Main Wall*.
Climb the crack in its entirety, passing the tree either left or right.
Grade is correct at MS (SR).

11. Gromerzog HVS *

A horrible name but a fine little climb. No more chipping please! Start 1.5 metres right of *Mojo* at the foot of a very steep, smooth wall.
(5b). Climb direct, eschewing **all** pockets on the left. The line continues over the right-hand end of a tapering overlap at 5 metres.
NB Grade is more like E3 (6a). The bit about not using the pockets on the left is immaterial to the grade (SR, CK). Barry Clarke adds: Agree with SR,CK about Gromerzog. For the HVS 5b tick; follow the left-hand pockets to a step left to place a clunky nut in Mojo (resisting the temptation to use the tree!). Move back right and use larger, but poorer pockets to gain easier rock and the top.

12. Blonde Ella VS

The smooth wall of *Gromerzog* takes on a rougher texture 3 metres right of the crack of *Mojo*.
(4b). Climb up this textured wall trending leftwards to finish left of the band of small overhangs at the top.
Grade should be HVS (5a) (SR, CK).

13. Slap Bang in the Middle VS

Start at the incipient crack, just right of *Blonde Ella*.
(4c). Climb the steep wall direct, through an area of very compact rock. Finish through the centre of the overhang at a layaway flake.
Grade is correct at VS (4c) (SR, CK).

14. Brant S

Start at a set of left pointing flakes on the wall, 2 metres right of *Slap Bang In The Middle*.
Climb the flakes and the very faint rib above, to finish up a shallow scoop.

15. Barwise HS **

Super holds! Start immediately below a small stump, at head height just right of *Brant*.
Climb past the stump and continue up an obvious runnel. Finish directly up the steep wall.
NB The stump mentioned has now gone though a trace of it can still be seen. Grade is probably only S, not HS. Very good though (SR, CK).

16. Slosh Wall S *

Start 1 metre right of *Barwise*. Follow the wall just left of the second, obvious crack on *Main Wall*, passing a 'hole' near the top.
TL writes: The walls can be climbed almost anywhere and I thought that Slosh Wall and Spare Rib were particularly artificial, the former felt more like HS 4a.

17. Havers Crack S

Start below the obvious crack with a large, mangled stump at 3 metres.
Climb the crack.

18. Spare Rib HS

(4a). Climb the rib above and to the right of the large, mangled stump in *Havers Crack*.

19. Pig Meat HS *

Start one metre right of the mangled stump.
(4a). Climb the shallow groove, just right of Spare Rib.

20. Wormrigg Wall HS *

Start 2 metres right of *Pig Meat*.
(4a). Follow the steep wall, slightly rightwards on a series of sharp flakes. Finish left of a small sapling.

Murenger VS

(4c). A fine route on micro jugs direct up the grey shield just right of *Wormrigg Wall*.
BJ Clarke, John Holden, May 2005 -- but done many times before.

21. Saxon S

Climb the wall directly below the small sapling.

22. Burrells S *

Start directly below the small tree, sprouting just below the top of the crag.
Climb direct to the tree via cracks. The wall above the tree is steep.

The wall beteen *Burrells* and *The Arete* is also pleasant and suitably artificial at about S (TL).

23. The Arete VD

Ascend the right-hand arete of *Main Wall*.

Girdle Traverses.

There are numerous possibilities for traverses at all levels.

The Hoff**FIRST ASCENTS**

1970s	The crag has been climbed on by local climbers since the 1970's. The recorded routes are the work of Ron Kenyon, Tim Dale, Phil Rigby, Dave Bowen and Stew Wilson.		
1988	Aug	12	Afterlife Karl Lunt (solo)
1996			Apple Sponge Phil Soulsby, Dave Weatherly
			Apple Crumble Dave Weatherly, Phil Soulsby
			Apple Pie Dave Weatherly, Phil Soulsby
2005	May		Murenger BJ Clarke, J Holden

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