

## The Lake District

Runestone Quarry originally known as Betsy Crag Quarry is a series of elongated open pit workings which follow a silver-grey slate seam up the fellside. It's said that the quarry, is one of the earliest in the area has been worked since the 1700s. The quarry closed just before the first WW.

The entrance to the middle quarry is gained by passing under an arch formed by a huge single slab of slate. This was a bridge to allow quarrymen to easily walk from Tunnel Hole Quarry to Betsy Crag Quarry. Heaven knows how it was lifted into place.

The quarry is just up from the Club hut, LHG, following track past HHG to the fell gate then left steeply to join main track from Fell Foot Bridge to Tilberthwaite. The spoil heaps can be clearly seen above. Head in direction of Tilberthwaite to where track branches right to quarry. Over stone stile and up ramp to Lower Quarry.

For years, YRC members used the quarry for top roping/bouldering activities and teams added a few bolted routes from the 1990s on. But in 2020, just before the pandemic and prompted by the publication of the new guidebook "Lakes Sport and Slate", the quarry saw a burst of activity from an invasion of climbers re-bolting old routes and developing new ones.



It has been agreed with Cumbria Bolt Fund that glue-in bolts should be used in slate owing to its tendency to fracture more easily as a soft rock.

Therefore, many of the existing routes have been re-bolted and lower offs improved.

Two new routes in Runestone Quarry have been put up this year by YRC members.

**1. Rosa Canina.** 12m. 6a ( 15.4.21).

In the corner immediately left of the entrance to the quarry. Line left of Caspian.

*Imogen & Ged Campion*

**2. Kobe's Cucumber.** 10m. 6b (1.7.21).

Groove just right of Yo Pick Po.

*Ged Campion and Matt Jackson*



Ged Campion leading  
Kobe's Cucumber



Imogen Campion  
leading Rosa Canina