

## Shoulthwaite Bouldering Circuit

A small circuit of 10 problems spread over the fell above Shoulthwaite Farm. Most problems are in the low to mid f7's, on excellent quality rock in tranquil settings. Blocks are between 2 and 25 minutes' walk. There is potential for many other minor additions to the circuit.

### Approach

Park in the large layby lane on the East side of the A591, just North of the dual carriageway, between Keswick and St John's in the Vale. Cross the road and take the public footpath through Shoulthwaite Farm Caravan site to a tall gate into the forest. From the gate take the small track on the right heading uphill. After 50m you'll pass a fence post against a tree on the right, and a clean sand-coloured block should be visible through the foliage (easy to miss). This is the **Little People boulder**:

**Little People 6c+ \*\*\*** Classy moves on immaculate rock - SDS From the central sidepull and left arête gain the jug and slopey top-out

**Little Hitler 7b\*** A worthwhile eliminate – SDS starting with both hands in the central sidepull, ascend without the left arête or crack

Return to the path and follow it uphill to the gravel road. Turn right and continue round a flat bend where the edge of the forest is visible, and take a gate and bridge on the right to access the open fellside. Cross the stone wall and (keeping it on your left) follow it directly up the hillside until a heather topped cubic block is reached (15 minutes from the previous boulder). This is the photogenic **Slice boulder**:

**Vanilla 7a\*** SDS straight up the downhill face from a high right hand incut.

**Custard 7b\*\*** Accepts the challenge of the ominously blank South face - SDS from a big undercut on the left, up the face via miniscule edges to a crux leap for the lip. The left arete is out, and if you can reach the lip from the foot ledge, downgrade accordingly!

Carefully climb over the wall and head for the biggest block in the basin 100m above you. It's a rough purple block with a small stream at its' base – the **Knob boulder**:

**Prow 6a+** SDS from the right matched on a boss, up the prow on slopers

**Knob 7b** Takes the diagonal seam left of the prow : SDS Insert right hand in the base of the crack and - gently gripping the Knob Sloper with the other - make a stiff pull on, followed by a series of increasingly urgent tugs bringing relief at the jug.

From here look uphill and left to spot the large overhanging face of the **Goat Stone**, at the base of a talus field accessed by a steep grass rake running up leftwards from a waterfall slab. 5 minutes steep walk.

This large and steep boulder still has a few snappy holds, so treat with some caution. The imposing downhill face is taken by:

**Nanny State 6a** Steep jug hauling to a gripping top-out. Spotter recommended!

**Rectangular Pupils 6a** Takes the prow direct from seated on the block

To the right and uphill of the prow are two short steep problems:

**Goat Boy 7a** SDS starting spanned on undercuts, over the lip on slopers

**Kid Gloves 6a** SDS from the green-lipped flake (hidden undercut)

