

# Stirrup Boulders – Wasdale

Copyright LakesBloc

## Aspect

Situated on the North East facing slopes of Yewbarrow fell in the valley of Wasdale, the Stirrup boulders are an excellent collection of around seven large blocks in a beautiful mountain setting, commanding superb views of Gable and the Scafell crags. The rock is mountain rhyolite, although its consistency changes a great deal between each boulder, with some being a smooth slate like composition and others much more abrasive. There is a good spread of grades from V0 to V8 with a few notable projects still to do.

## Approach – Grid Reference 181 093

The boulders are on the fell-side and are freely accessible although the most direct route to the boulders crosses farm land and as such the following description **MUST** be followed to the letter to prevent aggravating the local farmer!

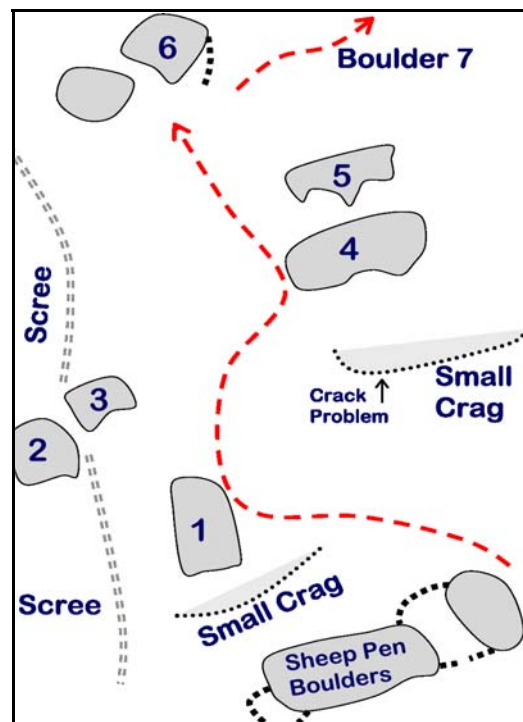
Park in the Wasdale Head car park and follow the main track to the Inn, take the track which leads down Mosedale with Mosedale beck on your right hand side. The first two boulders (Sheep Pen boulders) can be seen on the fell-side 800m up hill to the left of the track. Continue along the main track for a few more minutes (seemingly walking away from the boulders) until a small larch coppice appears on the right, flanking the beck. Walk beside the coppice to where it finishes, here a gate leads through onto the open fell-side, once through this immediately strike a diagonal path up the steep hillside walking back towards the boulders. There should be no need to climb over any dry stone walls if this description is followed correctly.

## Approach Map

Blue Dotted Line  
Indicates Approach

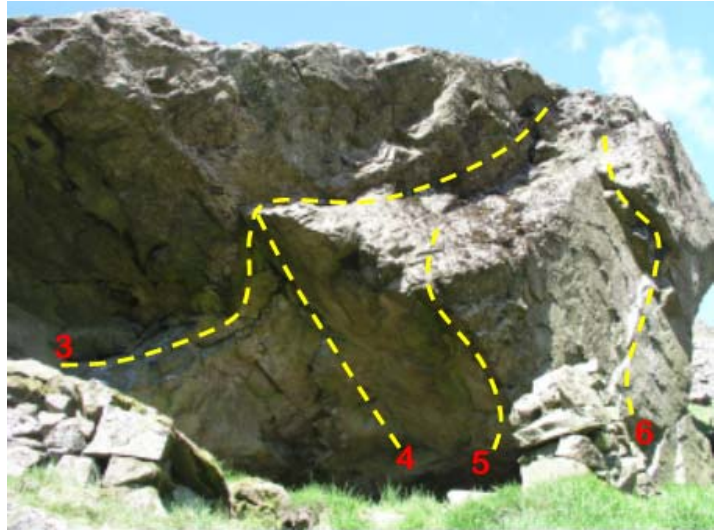


## Boulders Layout



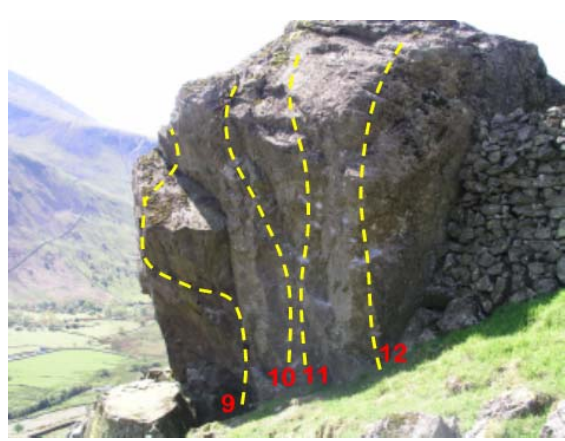
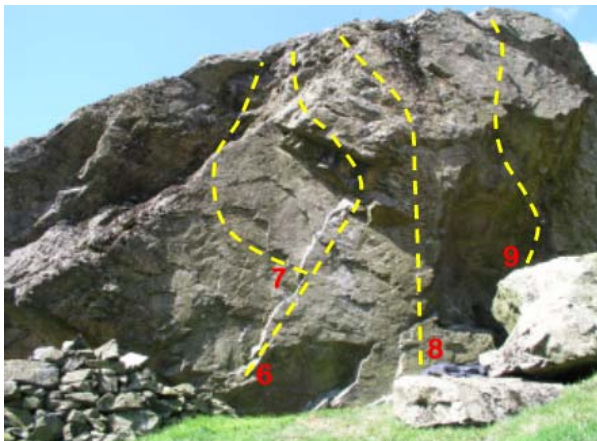
# The Sheep Pen Boulders

The first boulders reached contain a good number of fine problems and as the name suggests have been modified into shelters for sheep to use during bad weather. Please do not stand on or damage the walls.



1. **VO** – The easy slabby arête.
2. **Shelf Life V1** – (sit start) A series of nice overlaps.
3. **Bill Board Of Opportunity V7** – (sit start) Traverse the shelves from the far left of the cave rightward then through the roof and onto the slab and up right. Harder for the short! \*

4. **Deep Down and Dirty V5** – (sit start) From the back of the roof climb direct through the broken crack in the roof and onto the slab and up right to finish. \*
5. **Project V?** – (sit start) The prow looks like it could be climbed.



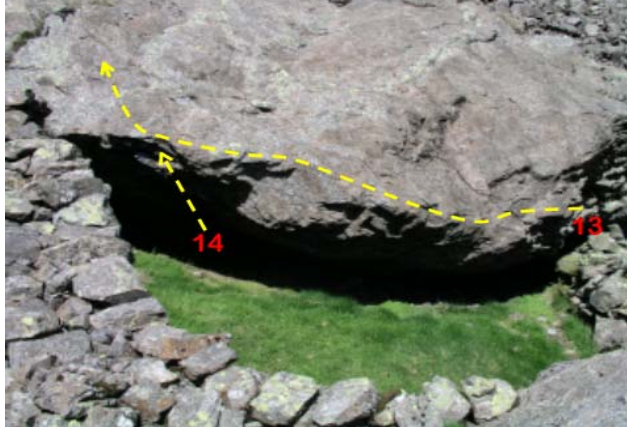
6. **Smells Like Teen Spirit V5** – (sit start) The obvious ramp line finishing to the left. \*
7. **Smells Like Toot Grable V3** – (sit start) Start as above but after 1.5m move left and finish up the ramp. \*
8. **Project V?** – (sit start) Wall left of the block will go but looks a little reachy!

9. **Respect To The Jug V4** – Start in the pit then move out leftward to a good hold now a tricky couple of moves up and left allow access to a dubious looking jug from this to the ramp and up.
10. **V1** – Dirty groove.
11. **Pixies Stole My Bangle V4** – (sit start) Up the wall direct, trending slightly right to start. \*
12. **V3** – (sit start) Nice climbing up the blunt arête.



13. **Riding An Ethnic Sheep V2/3** – (sit start) Traversing the smart lip from right to left is brilliant thuggy climbing! \*\*\*

14. **Rag Bollock Roof V4** – (sit start) Start matched at the back of the roof then climb direct. \*



## Boulder 1

Perched directly behind the Sheep Pen boulders above a small craglet, this boulder's south face contains a number of good crimpy problems on clean rock.

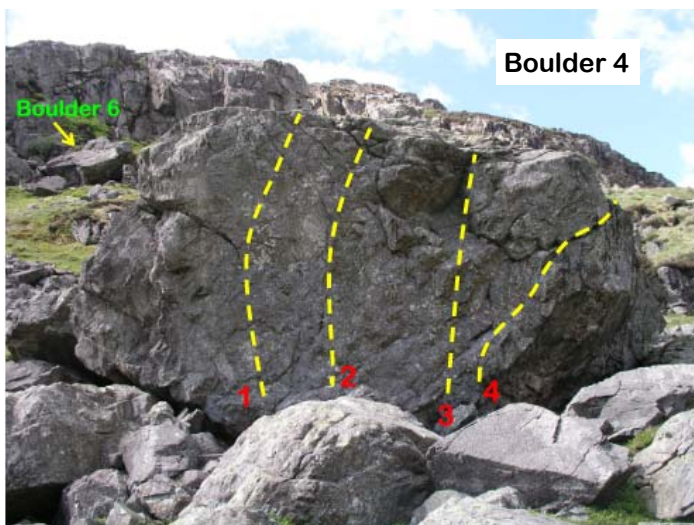


1. **V0** – Crimpy wall
2. **V1** – Slightly trickier.
3. **V0** – The vague groove.
4. **V1** – More crimping.
5. **V5** – (sit start) Start up the prow moving left to finish, reachy!

There is also a nice traverse going from right to left at around V3.

## Boulders 2 and 3

These two boulders are located in a slight scree filled gully diagonally up and left of boulder 1. There is obviously around four or five lines on the boulders but as yet no problems have been climbed. The most striking line is that of the big roof on the down hill face of boulder 2, which will surely prove a stern test.

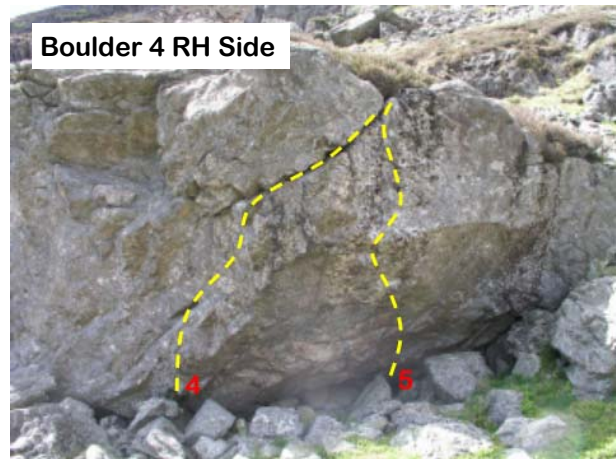


## Boulder 4

Walking around fifty meters up and right of boulders 2 and 3 brings you to another fine block containing more excellent lines including the venues two hardest problems, "Ten Mighty Wee Guns" V7 and "The Confabulator" V8, both superb problems!

## Boulder 4

1. **Ten Mighty Wee Guns V7** - The very thin wall right of broken arête is taken direct. \*\*
2. **VO** - The vague ramp line to the right. \*
3. **Toms Groove VO** - The vague groove into the hollow and up.
4. **Chinese Whispers V4** - (sit start) Start left of the overhanging wall, climb up and right to the diagonal crack and jam your way to victory. \*
5. **The Confabulator V8** - (sit start) The overhanging wall taken centrally has it all with both powerful and technical climbing! \*\*



## Boulder 5

This boulder is situated directly to the rear of boulder 4 and is of the roughest rock imaginable.

6. **Beginners Bass Line V3** - (sit start) Start on the small central hanging prow, where a hard move leads to the lip now traverse left and up. \* Can be finished to the right but this is not as good!

## Boulder 6

Visible up and left of boulder 5 this appealing looking boulder can be distinguished by another small dry stone wall creating a pen of its right side.

1. **Project V?** - The wall taken centrally from low is a project.
2. **V3** - The small prow into a leftward traverse.



## Boulder 7

This boulder is situated 40m up and right of boulder 6 and looks to have a number of good short sit start problems on its South face.