

Windy Clough - Bouldering Circuit

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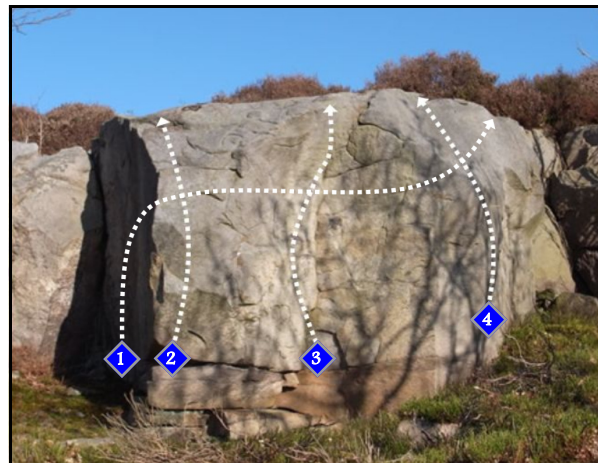
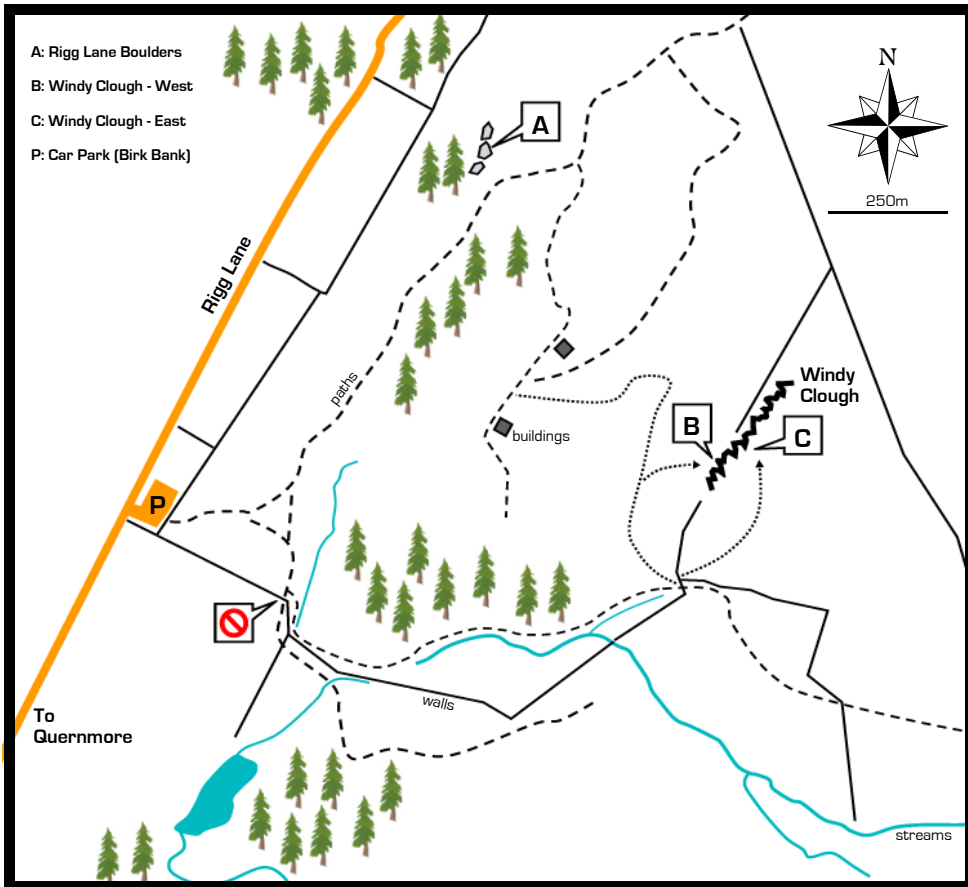
Aspect

Situated on the northwest flanks of Clough Pike, around 4 miles (7km) east of Lancaster, is the picturesque bouldering circuit of Windy Clough. This neat little venue is spread over 3 small sectors, and comprises of superb fine grained blocks and walls, similar to those found just over the hill at Thorn Crag. Of the 3 sectors Windy Clough - West is the most extensive, and offers some excellent problems up to 7b+/V8. However, as a rule the climbing is generally in the lower grades which, combined with fantastic views and good landings, makes this an excellent spot for the circuit boulderer.

Approach

From the top of Lancaster (Williamson's Park) head east on Wyresdale Road for 2.5 miles (3.9km) to a cross roads at Quernmore Village. Turn left along Rigg Lane, after just under half a mile (650m) Rigg Lane forks off the main carriage way to the right, be sure to take this turn keeping to Rigg Lane. After a further half a mile or so (800m) Birk Bank car park is reached on the right.

Right: Andy Hebson on *Live Evil*, 6c+/V5.



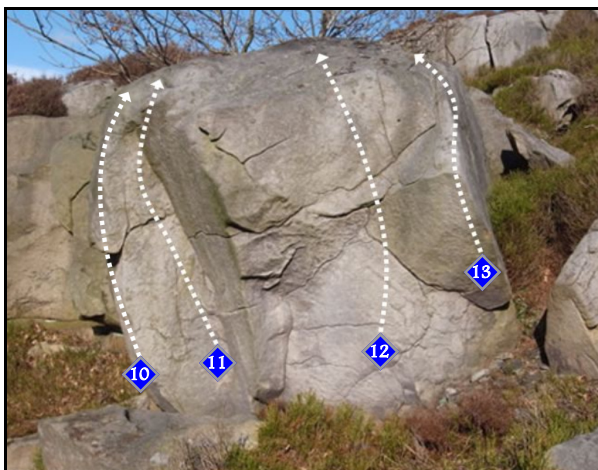
Rigg Lane Boulders

Follow the track out of the Rigg Lane car park and bear left for about 500m until a small clump of trees appears down on the left. Cut down left towards the farmers field to find the boulders.

- 1) ♦ (6b/V3) SDS Start on the far left of the block, move up and right and traverse at mid height to finish up the far RH hand side.
- 2) ♦ (4+/V0) SDS The slabby undercut arete on the right.
- 3) ♦ (5+/V1) SDS The gapping corner groove climbed more on the left.
- 4) ♦ (5/V1) SDS The wall right of a blunt arete.
- 5) ♦ (3/V0) Easy wall.



- 6) ♦ (6a+/V3) SDS Starting from two poor handholds on a rail, not using the right hand arete, make a dynamic move to the slopy lip.
- 7) ♦ (5+/V1) SDS The undercut diagonal trending arete. A bit sandy.
- 8) ♦ (?) The short wall in a cove (without the right arete) may give a tough one-mover?
- 9) ♦ (6b+/V3) Starting in the corner traverse the top of the whole boulder from left to right.
- 10) ♦ (6c+/V5) SDS to the blunt arete, slap your way up both sides to a grovelling top out. Tricky and brilliant. *
- 11) ♦ (6c/V4) SDS The tilted dihedral is very technical and excellent. *
- 12) ♦ (6b/V3) SDS Climb the centre of wall utilizing some fine sloping holds.
- 13) ♦ (6a+/V2) SDS The short arete into a sloping rail, then up.



Below: The fine slopy traverse of *Mr. Owl Ate My Metal Worm*, 7a/V6.



Windy Clough - Access

To get to Windy Clough from the Birk Bank car park follow the track out of the car park bearing right, then left over the wooden walkway to cross the marsh. Continue uphill on the main track through the woods to a meeting point of stone walls and two wooden stiles. The boulders are on the left skyline. Either follow a narrow track around the end of the ridge to the west, where the Country for Old Men boulder can be seen to the right. Or, go over the (LH stile) and hike up to the eastside.

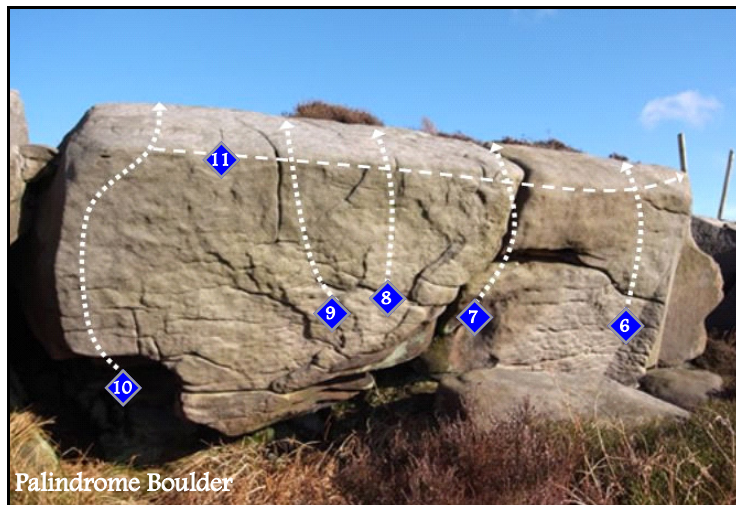
Country For Old Men Boulder

- 1) ♦ **No Country for Old Men** (7b+/V8) SDS Start matched in the thin break with feet on the plinth at the back, then straight up the hanging arete to a technical (direct) top out. If you are tall enough to reach the top of the block with feet still on plinth at the back, it reduces the grade to 7a+/V7. *
- 2) ♦ **Good Ol' Days** (7b/V8) SDS Start as for p1 then traverse the thin break right into the SDS of p3.
- 3) ♦ **Country for Old Men** (7a/V6) SDS The central wall/scoop direct, starting on poor edges. The stand up is 4/V0. *
- 4) ♦ (6b/V3) SDS The blunt arete climbed off the ground (not the blocks) trending left at the top. *
- 5) ♦ (6b/V3) Traverse the lip of the block rightward all the way round to the right side of the south face.



- 13) ♦ (5/V1) SDS From a thin horizontal break climb the flake line direct. The stand up is 4+/V0. Veering right at the top is slightly easier.
- 14) ♦ (6b+/V4) SDS The centre of the wall, starting sat on a flat block. Use slots in the low break to make a big move to high edges, before tackling the slopy top out - the flake out right is to be avoided. The stand up is 6a+/V2. *

- 15) ♦ (6c/V4) SDS Climb the curving groove line via some useful foot trickery. At the top step left and use the sandy crack to top out. The stand up is 6a+/V2.
- 16) ♦ (4+/V0) The sandy crack is not particularly hard but the landing is pretty heinous - the large detached flake is in.



Palindrome Boulder

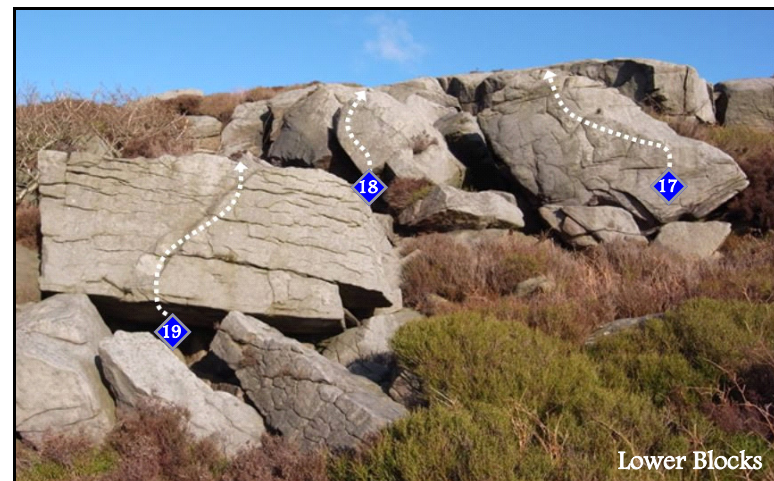
This block is diagonally up and left (as faced) of the 'Country For Old Men' boulder.

- 6) ♦ (6a/V2) SDS Start sat on a the right end of the embedded block and climb direct.
- 7) ♦ (4+/V0) SDS Start sat on a block and climb the gapping crack.
- 8) ♦ **Welcome to the Palindrome** (6c/V4) SDS From sat on the ground (not the block) use two edges to gain the lip, before making a tricky top out on sloping crimps - avoid the gaping crack out right. *
- 9) ♦ (6c/V4) SDS The central wall starts matched on a good crimp then moves up to the lip and over to the centre left. *
- 10) ♦ **Live Evil** (6c+/V5) SDS Start matched in a slot under the roof, pull up to a hold on the arete then pull all the way through to the lip and a sketchy top out. *
- 11) ♦ **Mr. Owl Ate My Metal Worm** (7a/V6) SDS Start as per p10 but at the lip traverse rightward all the way to end of the block - avoid the block on the ground with feet.

Two Mat Boulder (south face)

This block is immediately left (as faced) of the 'Palindrome Block', on the same level.

- 12) ♦ (6a+/V3) SDS Start matched on a flat slightly tilted hold and traverse the face left, trending up to the centre left of the face.



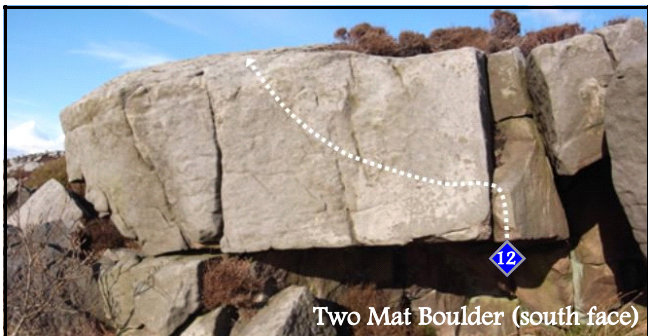
Lower Blocks

These boulders are directly below the 'Two Mat Boulder'.

- 17) ♦ (6a+/V2) Traverse the rising lip on very slopy holds, to an easier top out. Starting sat on the central block and link in to this is a bit harder - 6b/V3. *

- 18) ♦ (6b/V3) SDS Climb the deformed diamond shaped boulder, starting on a tilted edge. The stand up is 4/V0.

- 19) ♦ **Pit & Groove** (6b/V3) SDS Start in a pit matched on a large flat hold. Now make a couple of difficult moves to get established in the groove. A pad is required for this one!



Windy Clough - East

The east side of Windy Clough has many east facing buttresses of rock, much more like short routes (as with Baines Crag). These solo style highballs have been left for you to explore. Of the final actual bouldering, there are two worth while locations.

Firstly, directly behind the 'Two Mat Boulder' is a small open cove of walls and a particularly eye-catching, if a little short, arête. All the lines here are no harder than 4/V0. Directly below the cove is a quality little block, with an east facing wall containing 3 good lines on quality rock...

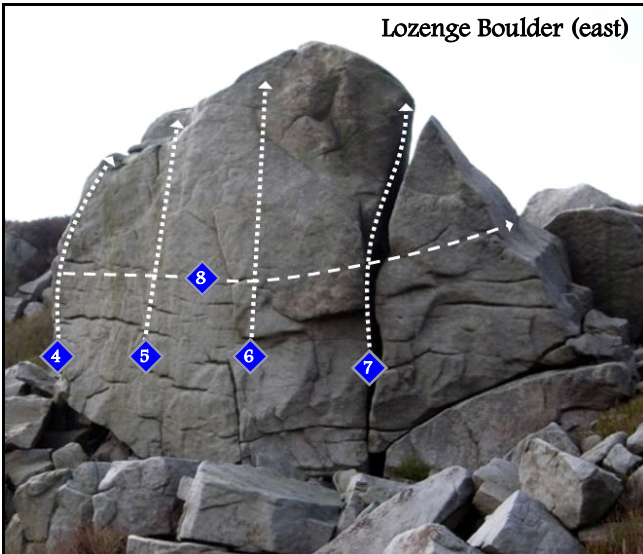
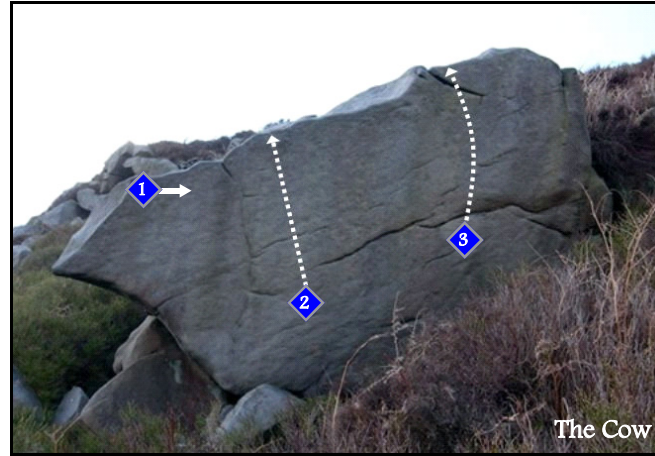
The Cow

1) ♦ (5/V1) Traverse the lip of the block rightward to the top of p3 and top out here.

2) ♦ **Bodacious** (7a/V6) SDS From a small LH side pull and a RH crimp, pull on with poor footholds and make a committing lunge for the top of the block. Top out direct.*

3) ♦ **Bully for Bugs** (6c/V4) SDS The right hand side of the face is climbed via two crimps and a slap for the top - the right arête is out. Top out direct.

An obvious challenge on this block would be to start at p2 and traverse the thin seam into p3 or the end of the block perhaps...



Lozenge Boulder (east)

The final Boulder on this section has really good bouldering but with a potentially bad landing. It is a freestanding lozenge shaped block with a wide crack up its left (if viewed facing east).

- 4) ♦ (4/V0) The arête climbed direct.
- 5) ♦ (4/V0) Scooping wall sent direct.
- 6) ♦ (5/V1) Highball wall on nice featured holds, to a high finish.
- 7) ♦ (3+/V0) The deep sandy crack.
- 8) ♦ (5+/V1) Traverse the face from the arête into the crack or all the way to the end of the block.

Lozenge Boulder (west)

9) ♦ (4/V0) The back of the boulder offers a really pleasant slab problem.*

10) ♦ (4/V0) Opposite the previous problem is another equally good slab problem.*

Both these line can be made harder by various self enforced eliminations of holds.

Below: Will Williamson on p15 of the 'Two Mats Boulder'.

