

This is small boulder field at the head of Scugdale labelled as White Stone Crag on the 1:25000 OS map. The rock is good and the setting fantastic with extensive views down the valley. The climbing is pleasant though the boulders don't dry as fast as the popular Scugdale escarpment.

Approach

Park in the normal place and walk past Scudale Hall. After 150m take the signed path up to Barker's Ridge. On the ridge, take the large track South until level with the corner of the plantation to the West (100m before the track turns left). Now head right onto the moor and contour whilst dropping a bit of height and the top of the West Wall Boulder, with its tree, will come into view. In Summer you have to fight the bracken to get to the boulders. The problems provide a good circuit for the average climber but there is potential for harder problems.

The Northern Boulder

The first boulder on the walk in.

1. Blunt West Arête 5c

Start at the blunt West arête and in-cut foothold at high height. Gain height then grope right for the large nose and up.

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2. Arête 5a

The arête direct.

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The West Wall Boulder

You can't miss the impressive West face.

3. The East Side 4c

The dirty East side has a low curving flake. SS and pull up on the flake to then mantel over the larger flake/sidepull. Stay out of the dirty groove to the right.

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4. The South East Arête 5b/5c

SS using the crimping arête (no reaching around to the jug) and pocket.

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5. Short Groove 4a

Short awkward groove. Harder if done static.

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6. The Slab 5b No groove, no vertical crack. Use only 2 small horizontal cracks for hands.

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7. South West Arête 5b on South side. No vertical crack. Shorties might struggle.

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There are a couple of obvious lines on the North face. The NW arête looks good!



7a. The North West Arête 5b

Climb the arête to a good flake hold and then up via the obvious runnel. Highball!

David Waburton December 2009

Also the main west face which is impressive, has an obvious sloping shelf system running up its right side. This goes at 5c and again is quite high, however the landing is flat and grassy. Both standing starts.

7b. The Shelf 5c

Climb the series of shelf systems on the right of the west face to the left of the SW arête. Tricky to start and high to finish.

David Waburton December 2009

It does look like a nice spring / autumn bouldering circuit for those who like that sort of thing. The unclimbed main wall looks about E4 6c!

The Flutings Boulder

8. Straight up the middle of the boulder to the left when facing the Flutings Boulder. (4c)

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9. The Flutings 5a The arête direct to the summit flutings. Reaching around left for the largest fluting/crack feels like cheating.

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10. The Nose 4c Direct over the nose.

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11. Pockets 4a Just left of the NW arête on pockets and ledges.

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12. SW Face 5b Around the arête is the SW face with its curving overlap. Use the deep slot up on the right side of the wall to gain the top.

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The next boulder along has an undercut nose which the strong might find possible. Pass another boulder to reach The Ripples Boulder.

The Ripples Boulder

13. NE Arête 4b Climb the arête direct.

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14. SE Arête Climb on the south side. (4c)

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15. South Face 4b Straight up the South face.

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16. From the left end of the South face traverse right using the top, then the thin horizontal cracks when available. Finish up 14. (5a)

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The Humble Boulder

The last boulder on the circuit is to the North and downhill from The Flutings Boulder.

17. On the Right 4b

The right side of the west arête.

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18. On the Left 4b

The left side of the west arête, with pocket.

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19. Slab Centre 5a

The centre of the slab is harder than it looks.

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