

STRUIE HILL CRAG

NH 657848

#This unusually good quality conglomerate crag is visible above the B9176 Struie road between Alness and Ardgay. It has a number of good climbs with traditional protection. Travelling from the south the crag is above the road on the right 13 miles North of Skiach junction, Alness. Park in the large pull-off on the left just past the crag where the road bends to the right. Walk 130 metres further up the road then take the path up to the crag passing to the left of the pine trees. Go right up to where the rocks start then follow the old iron fence posts on the right (20 minutes).

The climbs are described from the left.

Grey Slab Gully 25m Difficult

Climb the heathery gully on the left of the first clean face.

RP Slab 20m HVS 5a **

Starting 1m right of the gully then the smooth grey wall for about 12m to either climb straight up via a large pocket 3m below the top, or trend right to finish up the left-facing corner crack (easier). About four nuts size Rock 1 and smaller are needed to protect the crux first half of this climb.

Austerity Wall 20m HVS 4c

Start 2m right of RP Slab and go up the left side of the block. Cross the bulge about 2m left of the block and finish up the right-hand crack. Hard to protect.

Alcove Slab 25m VS 4c *

Start right of the prow and climb a shallow corner and a V-shaped overhang, then finish up a slab and a steep corner.

Pink Slab 25m Very Difficult *

Climb the fine pink slab to the right of Alcove Slab, surmount the overlap and continue up the slab.

Old Kids On The Block 25m Difficult

Starting 2m right of a pine tree, climb the left side of an arête for 4m, then step right and continue to the block to finish behind it. There is 8m of heather.

Jungle Jim 25m Difficult

This climbs the big left-facing corner at the right side of the slabs, or the slabs to its left. Start up a chimney (sometimes wet). This climb is now completely overgrown.

Achilles Chiel 20m VS 4c **

Climb a left-slanting rib then a short arête to a slab. Trend left to a small slanting overlap and follow the thin crack leading from it.

Le Cadeau 20m VS 4c **

Climb the recessed corner behind the slanting rib of the last route to an overhang. Follow cracks above to the slab and finish up a miniature right-facing corner.

Archimedes Flakes 25m Severe 4b **

Follow the two big flake cracks to the small roof, move right 1m, then surmount the roof and finish up a wide crack. Moving right 3m then back left to the crack reduces the grade to 4a, while continuing right reduces it to V Diff.

Socrates Chimney 25m HS 4b*

The corner-chimney left of the big overhangs gives an interesting climb.

Hairy Eyrie 20m E1 5b *

This climb takes the high corner right of the big overhangs. Start on a block beneath a blunt arête. Step up right and follow a thin crack over an overlap, then move left and go up the corner.

The Whip 20m Severe 4a

This pleasant climb follows the big, open, fairly vegetated corner and wide crack with a small tree near the top. Start up the wall just right of the corner.

The Whip Left-Hand 20m Severe 4b

From just above the first chockstone on the Whip, traverse left into a niche above a large nest. Climb out leftwards and finish up the arête.

The Arete 20m Severe 4a

Climb the initial wall of The Whip then move right 2m down a grassy groove and climb up and cross the arête at a spike. Go up to a large ledge, then move back left round the arête and finish up broken cracks. Good stuff.

Pocket Slab 20m VS 4c

Further right, and left of a sometimes wet streak (Struie Ice Fall), climb the grey slabby wall past a pocket. At the chimney step left to easier ground.

Holly Bush Corner 25m Severe 4a

The corner immediately right of Pocket Slab. Go up the corner to a heathery section, then climb the wall on the right and a series of short slabs.

Struie Icefall 25m III,4

In some winters a short steepish ice pitch forms and is visible from the road. Climb it and the heathery corner above.

Strawberry Fault 25m HS 4b

Start at a steep clean pocketed wall just right of the seepage line of Struie Icefall. Go up a metre or two then step right into a corner-crack. Climb this past a block, then move right to another short crack. Go up then left a few metres to finish steeply up a recess.

The Long Nosed Lion 25m HS 4b

Starting at two tree stumps on the face, climb a crack to a large sloping ledge. Finish easily up a chimney.

#About 20m further right is an area of fairly clean orange rock with four corners.

Pensioner's Partypiece 25m VS 4c

Climb a few metres up the first corner to beneath a sloping overhang. Move right 2m then ascend 2m (crux) and move back left round a bulge. Ascend more easily to a slab beneath a steep wall. Climb the slab rightwards, cleaner, or go left and climb a short chimney to easier ground.

Peaty Crack 25m Severe 4a

Climb a shallow right-facing corner, then the arête on the left to a bulge. Follow the peaty crack over the bulge, move left and climb a corner to a slab. Climb the slab rightwards until it is possible to break up to the left.

Copernicus Corner 25m VS 4c **

Start just right of Peaty Crack, go up easily to the start of the fine open corner-groove. Follow this to the niche, then step right onto the arête and climb juggy blocks to easier ground.

137 Not Out 25m Severe 4b *

This climb takes the next and last steep corner to the right, the short corner above, then the corner system above that, finishing over the blocks as for Copernicus Corner. Taking the same start as Copernicus Corner reduces the grade to 4a.