



Suspension Bridge Buttress

North Wall (left)

4

5

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## The North Wall, Suspension Bridge Buttress

### Introduction

This is an interim topo to the four routes on the left-hand side of the North Wall that were restored in December 2014 by ClimbBristol. It is anticipated that scrub-clearing work to the remainder of the routes on the North Wall will be completed in February 2015.

### Approach

Hop over the wall and fence left (north) of the gallery under the Clifton Suspension Bridge and locate a cave at ground level under the wide gully between *Giant's Cave Buttress* and Suspension Bridge Buttress (St Vincent's Rocks Gully). Scramble up left of the cave; then trend rightwards and zig-zag up the gully before branching rightwards to the North Wall.

### Descents

Access to and from the Clifton Suspension Bridge is not permitted. Bolt/thread belays equipped for abseil have been installed following the loss of trees to essential conservation and engineering work.

Routes 1 – 3 are unrestored as yet and not indicated on this version of the topo.

#### 4. \*Strappados 25m E1 5a (1967)

A cameo classic, mischievously graded VS in the 60s. Climb the right-hand crack past a long pocket into the cave; possible belay on threads. To your right is a scalloped blank white wall requiring an unerring faith that (at 5a) it must have holds. Transfer right onto the wall, and move up (twisted wire placement in pocket), until a step right gains holds on the rib (thread). Step right to a large pocket, and climb a strenuous groove to a two-bolt belay.

#### 5. \*Hideaway 25m E2 5b (8.73)

A tucked-away treasure, but poorly protected – though smallish cams help. Start under the red-flicked rib. Climb onto the rib, and detour briefly right to place the twin threads on *José Dansack*. Back on the rib: climb boldly straight up past a finger-jam jug on the left (cam in pocket just left) to a break. Continue up the edge of the rib (peg) to join *Strappados*, and – as for that route – step right to a large pocket and climb a groove to the two-bolt belay.

#### 6. \*José Dansack 25m HVS 4c (22.10.72)

A raunchy romp on pockets, the size of which will blow you away. Follow a right-curling, streaked groove (twin threads) to a hole (thread). Step right; then launch up the steep pocketed wall. Above, step left and finish up the strenuous groove (as for the two previous routes). Two-bolt belay.

#### 7. \*The Drain 25m VS 4b (1968)

An adventurous pitch, which is quite intimidating for the grade. Start 5 metres right of *Strappados*, at a peg and nut belay. Step right from the belay and climb a crack back leftwards and up past a tree stump (runner) to a break under an impressive chimney. Enter the chimney using a crack and jugs on the right (giant crusty thread deep in chimney). Pull over a bulge, and climb a crack, thread, until a difficult move must be made to exit to ledges. Giant thread belay with cable strop. Abseil off.