

St Ives: Amphitheatre Buttress

An addition to the St Ives circuit. Easily accessible, south facing, good rock: what more could you ask for? At time of writing only the four most obvious and easiest lines have been climbed. There's more to do but some cleaning will be required. Other climbers are invited to get involved. The crag is a good height and is predominantly made of excellent rock. The lower band is a bit crumbly but standing starts mean that this only ever gets used for feet.

Parking and approach info: Head to St Ives estate near Bingley and park at the children's play area (53.84687858396714, -1.858242725534069). On the opposite side of the road is a grassed area with some wooden mushroom sculptures. Walk past these and follow a path down to the right to join a broad, well-travelled path. Follow this for a minute until a large building appears on the right. Opposite this is a hole in the low wall. Climb down here and the rocks are obvious on the right.



Logistics: The base of the crag is a dried-up ornamental pond from ages past (The Upper Pond; constructed as part of a larger set of water features in the 1820s; at one time a waterfall cascaded down the rock face). Landings are relatively flat but can be a bit rocky so two pads are recommended as a minimum. During cleaning (Feb 2021), brambles were pulled back from the crag top and a strip of mud was dug off the top to make it possible to top out. Mud was brushed from the scooped face of the crag on abseil, leaving beautifully clean rock underneath. The climbs were done soon after but would benefit from a little TLC to bring them into their best scrittle-free condition. *Ringleader* was not cleaned on abseil so was very dusty when first climbed. Early repeaters might want to dust it off before climbing. On the opposite side of the wall at the crag top is a tree which makes a convenient belay point. If you're visiting in years to come and the climbs are not seeing regular traffic, consider bringing a pair of secateurs to snip back any brambles that might have encroached the top, and a rope and brush to get the best out of your visit.



The wall left of the crack needs doing.

1\ Ringleader Font 6B **
The crack looks like a horror, is a horror, but actually climbs well and is oddly compelling once you get stuck in. A sitting start from the back of the cave will add some moves but the rock is sadly a bit grotty.

Will Hunt 14.2.2021

The eliminate wall between the crack and arête needs a brush on abseil before it's attempted.

2\ Stone Love Font 6A **
The pocketed arête on its left-hand side has a lovely technical move to get stood up.

Will Hunt 14.2.2021



Will Hunt on Stone Love

St Ives Amphitheatre Buttress

3\ Warm Front Font 6B+ *

Start below the middle of the slab on a good flatty. Work right and back left to gain a standing position on this before topping out.

Will Hunt 14.2.2021

4\ Ferrand's Rib Font 6A *

Climb the rib bounding the right-hand end of the slab, rocking onto the slab to get established.

Will Hunt 14.2.2021

The wall to the right becomes shorter and overhangs a little. It's covered in mud at the moment so needs a good scrub but should give a good couple of sitters.

