

Rams Tor

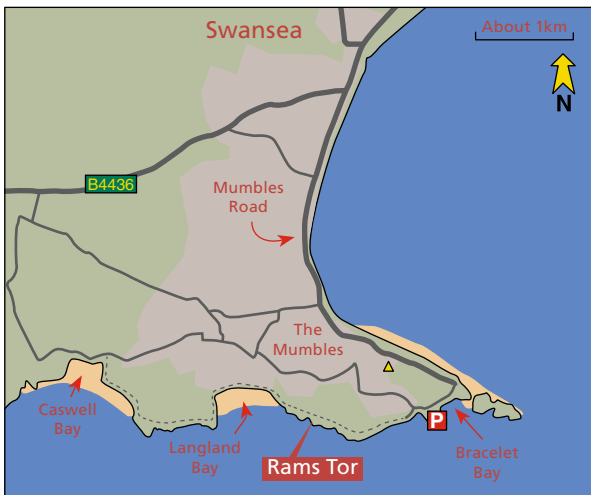
For years Rams Tor had an eclectic mix of routes. Some were poorly protected trad lines, some had the odd rusting bolt, and all were thoroughly unpopular, in fact it is probable that most of the routes here were never repeated. At the end of 2008, a major effort was made to replace all the old bolts with stainless glue-in anchors. This effort was supported by funds from the SWMC. Bolts were also added to the previously traditionally unprotected routes, effectively retro-bolting the entire crag.

Approach

Follow Mumbles Road west from Swansea. Continue past Mumbles, heading west past the 'Big Apple' and the coastguard lookout until the road ends at Bracelet Bay (ice-cream parlour). Park here and follow the coastal path west for 500m. Continue up the steps and you can see the crag on the left. Either scramble down opposite, or abseil from the belay of Nostradamus (there are also belay stakes but take care to avoid dropping rocks). It is also possible to scramble around the far right-hand side of the crag at very low tide.

Conditions

The crag faces west, and so gets afternoon and evening sun. It dries quickly, and is usually sheltered from the wind. If this tide is high and the sea is rough, then the routes at the far right-hand end can be affected. It is worth bringing a clip-stick to the crag as the starts can get a bit greasy if the sun hasn't been on the rock, and the landing is quite hard.



- 1 Project** [] ?
The cleaned line.
- 2 The Cool Crux Clan** [] 7a
Never steep, but a few tricky bits to deal with. Currently has one old bolt in place between two new ones. Holes have been drilled for the belay to be raised a little higher.
- 3 Ride the Funky Wave, Babe**. [] 7a
The original route on this wall, and the most popular. It once started off a very large block, which disappeared in a storm. It now follows the line described in the guidebook as the *Direct*.
- 4 Girdle Traverse** [] E3 6b
This used to be about HVS, but the large boulder that enabled the start has gone, making it much harder now. Start up *Ride the Funky Wave, Babe* then follow the break below the roof all the way past the sport routes until easy ground leads to the top.
- 5 Rain Dance** [] 7b
A good juggy start leads to a fingery pull onto the slab.
- 6 Hypocritical Mass** [] 7b+
A fingery boulder problems gets you to the break, and another tough move turns the lip of the overhang.
- 7 Renaissance** [] 6c+
Clip-stick the first bolt and use the rope to pull up to the jug (could probably go free, but seriously hard). From here follow good holds. The jug on the lip of the overhang is huge, but leaving it is not easy.
- 8 Captain Hook** [] 7b
Start up *Nostradamus* and finish as for *Renaissance*. One extra bolt links the two lines. Originally climbed on trad gear.
- 9 Nostradamus** [] 7b
One of the best routes here. The start is quite a bit harder than when originally climbed, due to the loss of a flake, but it's just as good. Turning the lip is hard to read on the onsight. The belay can be reached easily from the top. Originally climbed with one bolt.
- 10 The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner** [] 7b
A seriously long reach around the roof at the start may prove insurmountable for some, the grade is for those who can reach it - just. Originally climbed on trad gear.
- 11 Totally Clips** [] 7c
The first of the pure sport climbs here, before the crag was re-bolting.
- 12 One Small Step** [] E3 6a
The start is either a jump to the jug, or a fingery pull. Could possibly be a deep water solo at high tide.



Chris Wyatt pulling the lip of Renaissance (6c+).