



# ST RONAN'S WELL

canyon v3a3III ★

## Location

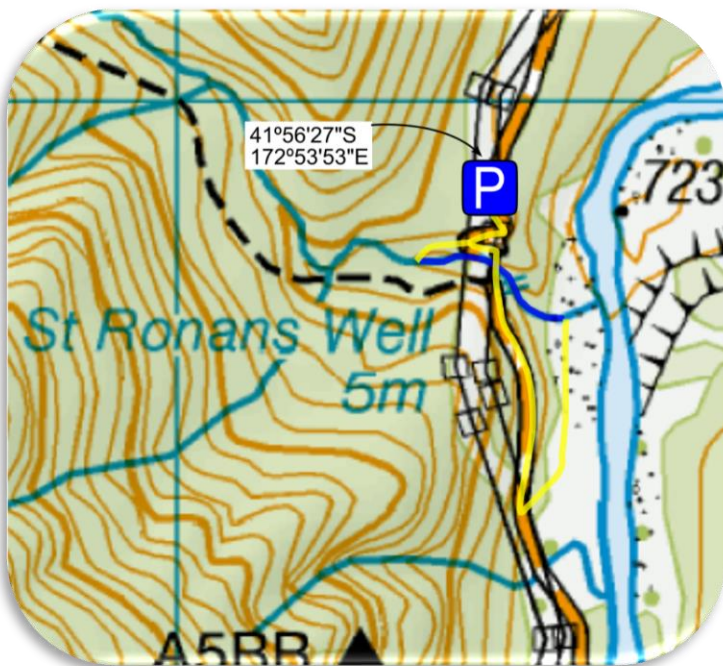
St Arnaud Range, Marlborough.

## Character

A very short canyoning trip. It's very enclosed and scenic, which makes it worthwhile. Medium volume, with short rappels and downclimbs. Easily repeatable in a day.

## Map

BS25 Severn.



## Approach by Car

A 4WD is best as there are several fords on the Rainbow Road. From central St Arnaud head towards Blenheim on SH63. After approx. 10 km turn right into Rainbow Road. Drive 20 km up the Wairau Valley (do not take the right turn to the ski field) and park at the top of a distinctive switchback just before St Ronans Stream. Past the ski field access, the land is lease hold and requires permission (which is easily obtained). For details see: <http://rainbowstation.co.nz/rainbow-access/>

## Approach on Foot

Take the 4WD track heading upstream on the TL of the stream. Enter the stream as soon as convenient. Once out of the canyon, head south along the river flats until you find an easy place to climb back to the road.

## Rock

Greywacke.

## Water

Medium flows in normal conditions.

## Catchment

7.6 km<sup>2</sup>

## Anchors

Double Bolts and Trees are present in the canyon. At the time of writing R3 was rigged off a knot block.

## Gear

2x 20m ropes.

## Route Description

After a short section of downclimbing and walking, the canyon becomes enclosed and there are no escapes between here (not far above the road bridge) and the canyon exit. The narrows are beautiful, with short rappels into blue pools. Be aware that this canyon will be very difficult in high flows as the R2 anchor station is on the lip of the drop directly in the flow.

## Time

Vehicle park to start of canyon	5m
Canyon descent	1h
Return to Vehicle	20m
<b>Total</b>	<b>1h30m</b>

## Flash Flood Danger

Moderate.

## Escapes

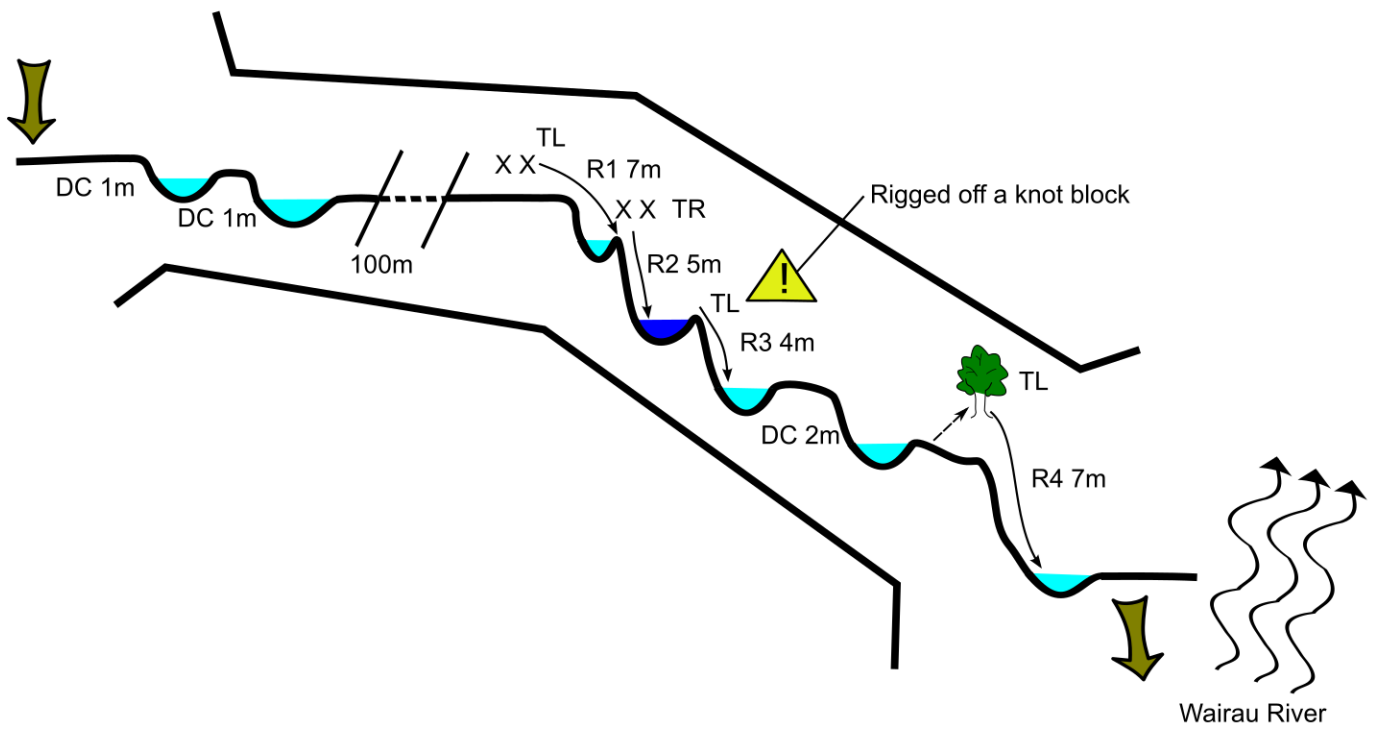
None from just above the road bridge.

## Notes

First descent: Unknown

First documented descent: Fergus Bramley, Benoit Gourgues, 7/1/2017

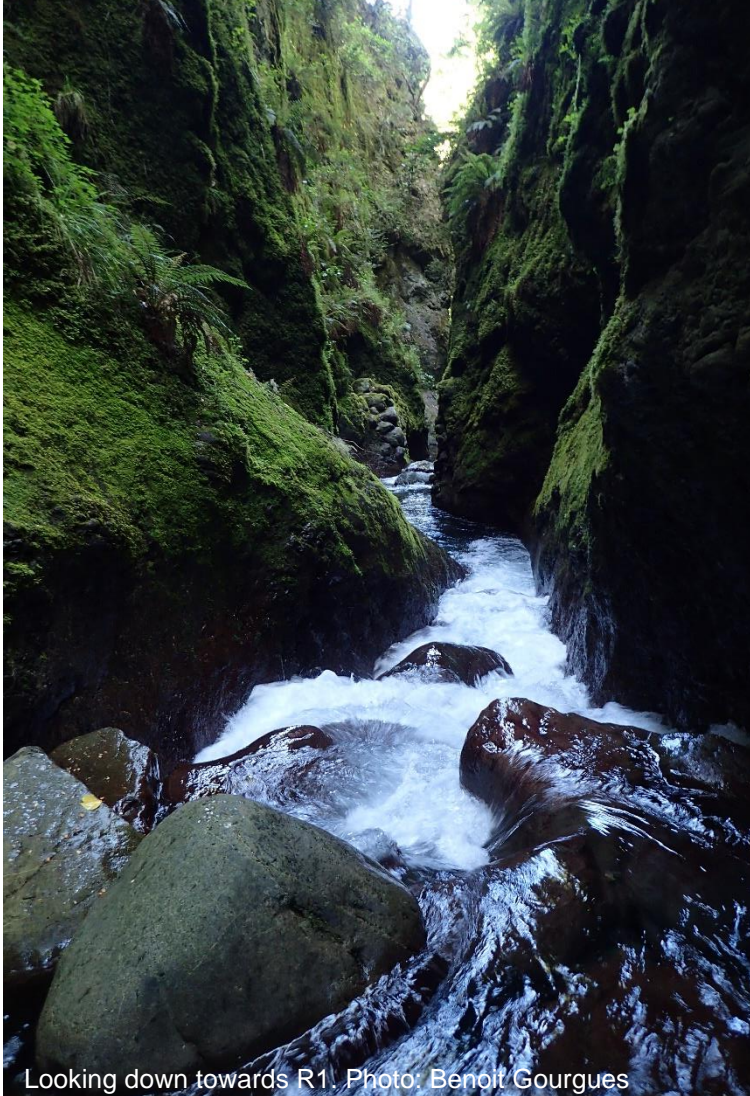
Fun to effort ratio: (1+1)/0.5=4



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Topo by Benoit Gourgues  
and Fergus Bramley  
[www.kiwicanyons.org](http://www.kiwicanyons.org)



Looking down towards R1. Photo: Benoit Gourgues



Fergus Bramley on R2. Photo: Benoit Gourgues



Benoit Gourgues on R4. Photo: Fergus Bramley

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