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Port Hills Climbing



**Bivvy Crag &
The Air Traffic Control Crag**
Rev. J
Tony Burnell (2022)

Bivvy Rock & Air Traffic Control Tower:2022

General

Inclusion of any climbing area or climb in this guidebook does not mean that there is any right of public access.

The Port Hills Craggs are home to rare species of geckos & native flora & fauna take care not to disturb wildlife or damage native plants.

Areas covered by this guide are:

Bivvy Rock

Air Traffic Control Buttress

All these crags overlook the Governors Bay / Allendale area of Lyttelton Harbour.

The Port Hills fires of 2017 did considerable damage to the flora & fauna across the area & the heat even damaged the rock in places so expect some loose stuff, there is still a lot of ash & dirt around &, by carrying a brush (& using it) you can help keep the routes clean & in good condition, you can also help prevent the re-colonisation of broom, gorse & blackberry. The rock is soft, coarse grained & rough to the touch providing excellent friction on the slabs.

Simon Courtois started the development back in 2007 & the second wave of his route development continued after the 2010/2011 Canterbury earthquakes. Next on the scene were *Grant Piper* & friends post the Port Hills fires adding 5 more climbs, more recently *Simon & Tony Burnell* continued the development adding a further 8 routes & there are now over 30 climbs graded 16 to 25.

The *Air Traffic Control Buttress* was also developed by *Simon Courtois* starting in 2008 before the earthquakes & continuing in 2013 then the last wave of climbs in 2018 by various artists.

Climbing Notes

Climbing is Dangerous - By choosing to climb at these crags you must accept responsibility for your own personal safety, you must make your own decision regarding the condition of any fixed equipment. Neither the first ascensionists nor, the author accept any responsibility for the condition of any fixed equipment. Replacement of fixed gear is a costly & time-consuming exercise so please do your bit, lower or top rope off your own quick draws. Only use fixed gear for abseiling, by doing this you will extend the life of the equipment considerably.

In this guide routes are described from R to L.

The route identifier at the bottom of each climb shown on the topos is normally that of the earliest recorded route.

As far as possible all known routes have been included in this guide, however there is not much information available, so the lines indicated are the ones we climbed & thought the most logical. If you want to know where a route goes read the text as well as looking at the topos. Some of the original lines have chain link protection.

None of the climbs are longer than 30mts therefore route lengths are not shown. The route name that appears on the topos at the base of route lines is always that of the earliest recorded climb.

Climb with care, test all holds before you pull on them, check your placements & wear a helmet. It is a good idea to take a brush & clean the routes, it will be appreciated by the next visitor to the crag.

Tracks are marked in

Sport routes are marked in

Variations are marked in

Trad or mixed protection climbs are marked in

Projects are marked in

Seismically Damaged climbs are marked in

YELLOW

RED

PINK

GREEN

BLUE

WHITE

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used

Sp - Denotes Sport Route.

Tr - Denotes Trad Route.

Mp - Mixed Protection Route (bolts & trad).

R & L - Denote R & L.

DBA - Denotes anchor station/lower off point

#Br - Denotes the number of bolt runners or staples

Grading

The 'Ewbank Grading System' is not the best grading system when applied to mixed pro or 'boldly' bolted routes as it provides little in the way of information & are normally accepted as just the technical difficulty of a particular climb, it can be tricky to use these grading systems when trying to assess the actual seriousness of any climb.

NZ	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
American	5.8-	5.8	5.9	5.10a	5.10b	5.10b	5.10c	5.11a	5.11b	5.11c	5.12a	5.12b
Euro	4c	5a	5b	5c	6a	6a+	6b	6b+	6c	7a	7a+	7b

The grades given here assume that the climber is climbing on-sight & placing gear on lead.

In this guide you will see a suffix to the grades (S1 - S3) this is to provide the climber with additional information on the overall seriousness of the climb.

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- S1 - A straight forward climb with good protection & a low risk of injury from a fall.
- S2 - Reasonable protection, but a fall could result in injury.
- S3 - Protection is marginal or non-existent & a fall could result in serious injury.

Climbers should remember that this additional suffix to the grade is my opinion & in no way scientific, gear can fail, rock can fail & any fall can result in injury.

Bivvy Rock Access & Restrictions

Restrictions: Dogs must be on a lead during lambing

Permission: None required

Bivvy Rock

GPS: -43.626421, 172.627971

Distance: 600mts

Walk Time: 8mins

Ownership: DOC Reserve



Bivvy Rock is a collection of buttresses both steep & slabby located just above *Ella Track*. Park opposite Kennedy's Bush on the Summit Rd approximately 3.0km from *The Sign of the Kiwi*, from the parking walk west along the *Crater Rim Walkway*, then turn L along *Ella Track* &, contour round under the crag & past a land slip, at the end of the crag a short track leads back up R to the crag. To get to No.2 slab continue along *Ella Track* for 20m before cutting uphill to the base of the slabby wall.



There was very little seismic damage & only one route was lost, the damaged climb is in **RED** text & in White on the topo. Access to the top of the crag is almost impossible without a great deal of bushwhacking or by climbing one of the existing lines.

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Beginners Wall

The slabby wall just above the track as you head towards the main crag, about 20mts past the bronze plaque. A small low angled buttress that currently has 4 lines, there are 3 single glue-in bolts just above the track.



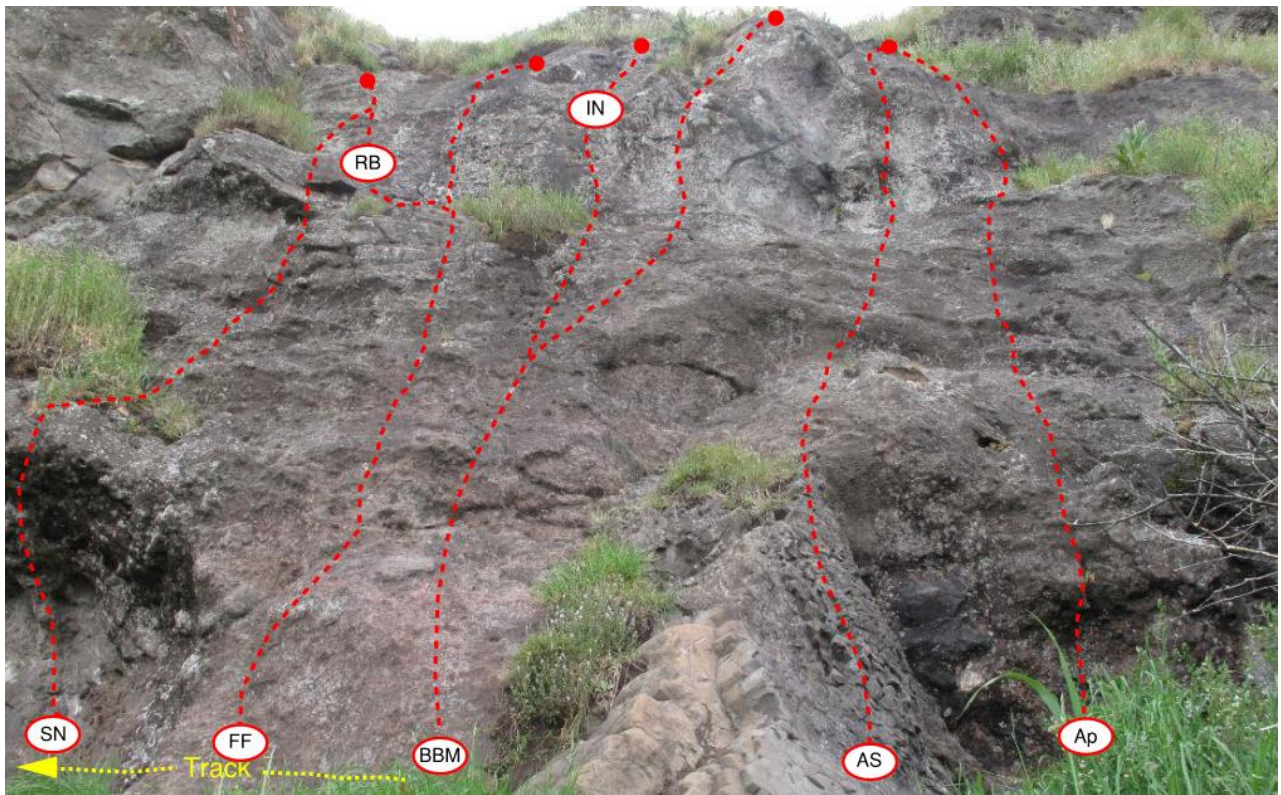
A	A	10	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Unknown, 2020</i>
Cleaned slabby wall to a DBA.						
B	B	10	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Unknown, 2020</i>
Cleaned slabby wall L of the grass sod, go straight up to a DBA.						
C	C	10	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Unknown, 2020</i>
Cleaned slabby wall steep at the bottom then angling R to a DBA.						
D	D	10	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Unknown, 2020</i>
Cleaned slabby wall to a DBA, trending L from a vague groove.						

Siesta Wall

The very right side of the main cliff, from the seat go R past the dyke & up onto a terrace at its R side you will find an belay point.

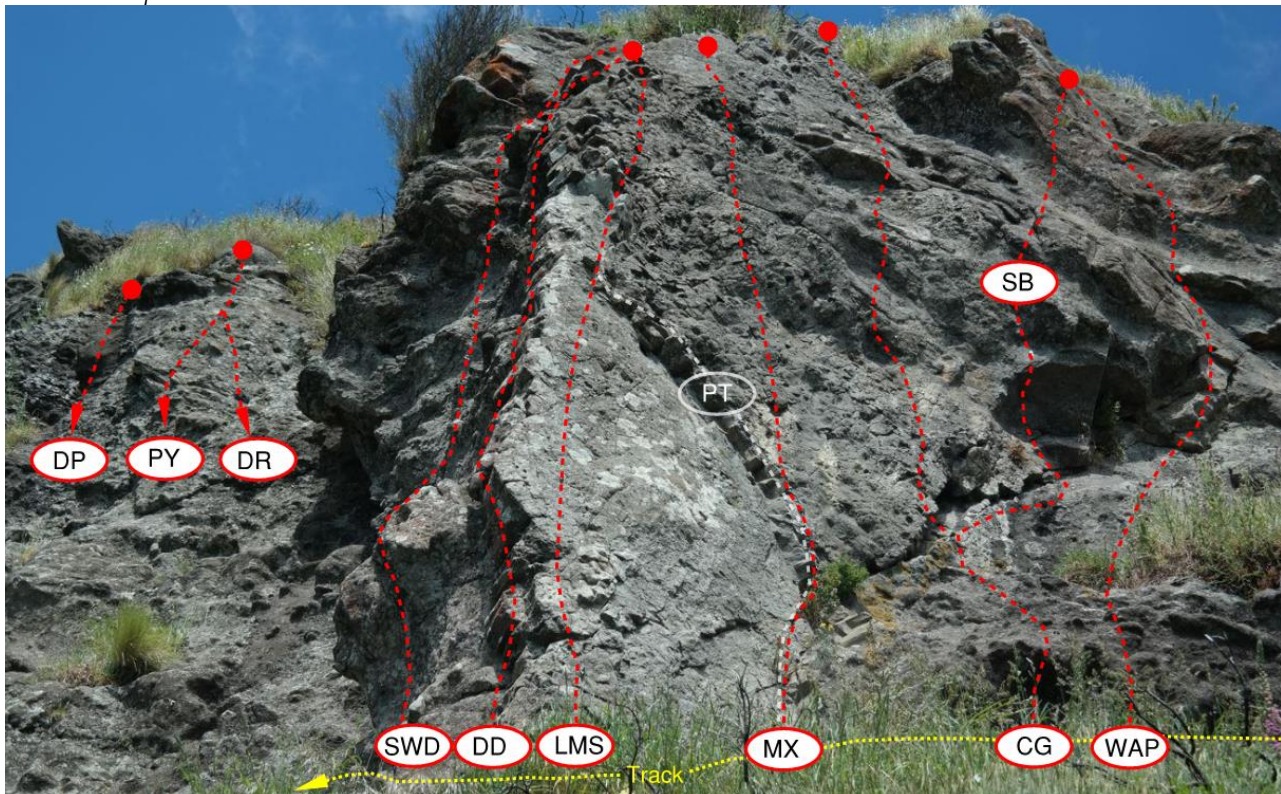
Ap	Apnea	18	S1	Sp	6Br	<i>Simon Courtois, 2022</i>
Start off a convenient rock to the R of the dyke, pull over the initial roof onto the slab, follow the knobbly wall to exit through a scoop on the top slab.						
AS	Awake to the Shake	18	S1	Sp	6Br	<i>Simon Courtois, 2011</i>
Move around to the R side of the dyke, head up the wall L of the corner & on to the slab, go diagonally R across the slab before heading straight up steeper rock near the top.						
BBM	Broke Back Mountain	18	S1	Sp	7Br	<i>Simon Courtois, 2011</i>
Climb 2/3rds of the way up 'In' (the central line), move R then go up the open groove past the saddle horn to finish.						
In	Insomnia	17	S1	Sp	7Br	<i>Simon Courtois, 2011</i>
Climb straight up the most central line of Br's using the dyke in the black streak, it gets steeper at the top.						
FF	Faux Fur	17	S1	Sp	7Br	<i>Simon Courtois, 2011</i>
From the anchor on the slab veer L across the wall then straight up moving sharp R at the top to the anchors.						
RP	Rupert's Blanket	15	S1	Sp	7Br	<i>Simon Courtois, 2011</i>
From the anchor on the slab veer L across the wall as for 'FF', above Br4 go L & up past a water streak to the anchors, tricky finish.						
SN	SNAFU	21	S1	Sp	7Br	<i>Tony Burnell, 2022</i>
Starts under the roof, up steeply & turn the roof passing 2 staples then straight up past 3Br's to a second crux through a small roof near a grass ledge on the L, then go up & join 'RB'.						

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The Prow

This dyke is the most prominent feature & always a great photo op. The climb Pillar Talk 'PT' was significantly damaged in the 2010/11 earthquakes



WAP We Ain't Playing Tiddly-winks Mate 22 S2 Sp 2Br

Howie McGee, 2012

Pre-named before being climbed in 2012. Pull over the roof past a Br & a lot of grass, veer R round the steep section

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stepping back L to go up the scoop/groove. Subsequently all but one or two Br's have been removed by persons unknown.

SB Sleeping Beauty 21 S2 Sp 4Br *Owain Scullion, 2017*

Share first bolt with 'CG' then move right. Move up pumpy bulge and delicately move up the arête to double bolt anchor.

CG Cold Ground 21 S1 Sp 4Br ★★ *Dave Shotwell, 2008*

(Cold ground was my bed last night, & rock was my pillow too). Run out, start up, & over, the bulge to the R of the corner system, move into the crack system & once below the featured wall step out L & go straight up the wall R of centre, towards, if you traverse around L into 'ST' this reduces the grade.

MX Matrix 18 S1 Sp 5Br *Tony Burnell, 2022*

Start up what would have been 'PT' then go straight up the wall staying R of 'LMS' & L of 'CG' the climb has its own DBA.

PT Pillar Talk *Simon Courtois, 2007*

Gone courtesy of the 2011 earthquakes, shown in white on topo.

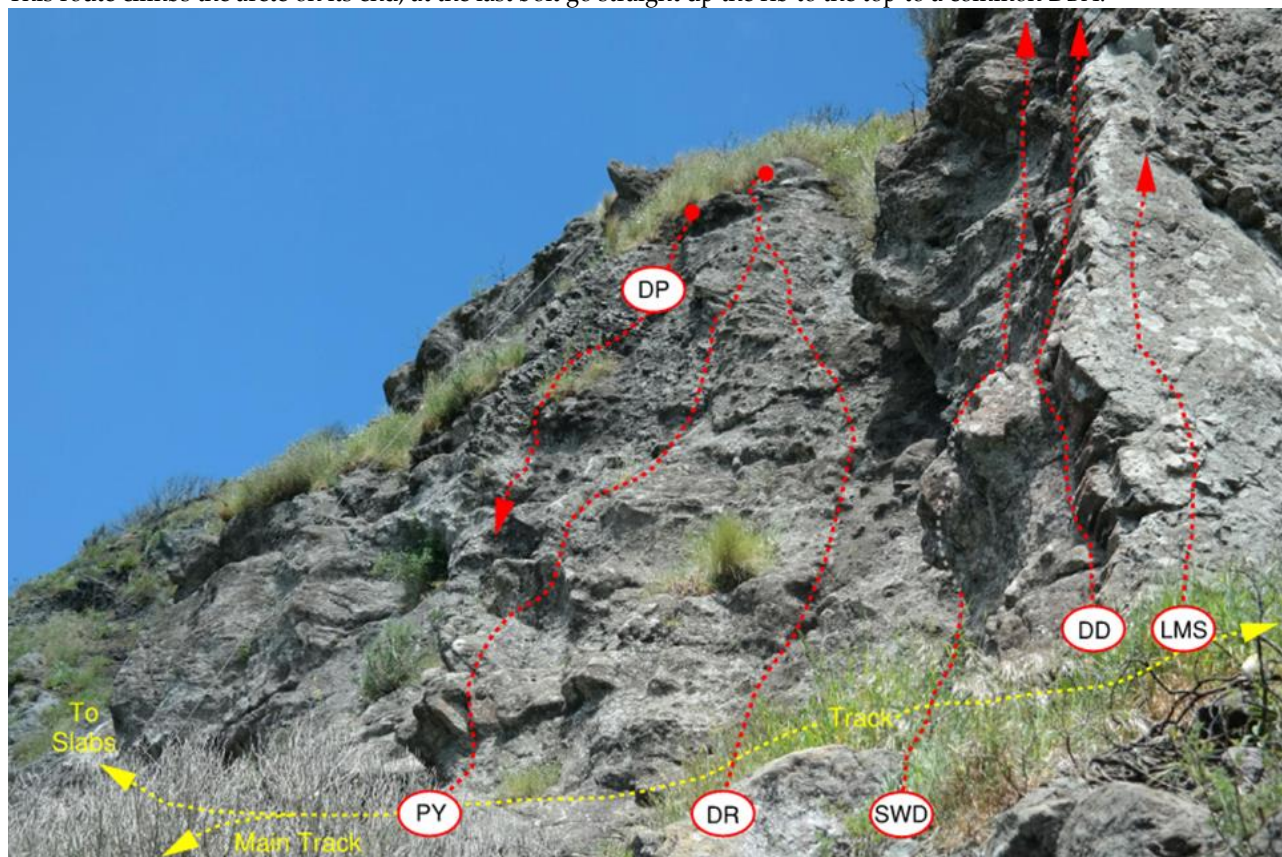
LMS Let Me Sleep on it 20 S1 Sp 7Br ★★ *Simon Courtois, 2007*

One of the best climbs around this area. The bolted line on the R side of the prominent arête, veer slightly R when you hit the black cobbles, really good value if avoid the arete, goes to a common DBA.

The next climb is on the end of the dyke.

DD Dirty Dreams 18 S1 Sp 8Br ★★ *Simon Courtois, 2012*

This route climbs the arête on its end, at the last bolt go straight up the rib to the top to a common DBA.



SWD Sleep When Your Dead 18 S1 Sp 5Br *Owain Scullion Tom Stubbs, 2016*

A dirty climb that starts in the shallow cave just L of 'DD', go L to Br1 & up into the prominent groove system (the first ascent mantled over the bulge on the R but it seems a bit contrived) finish at common DBA as for 'DD'.

Main Face

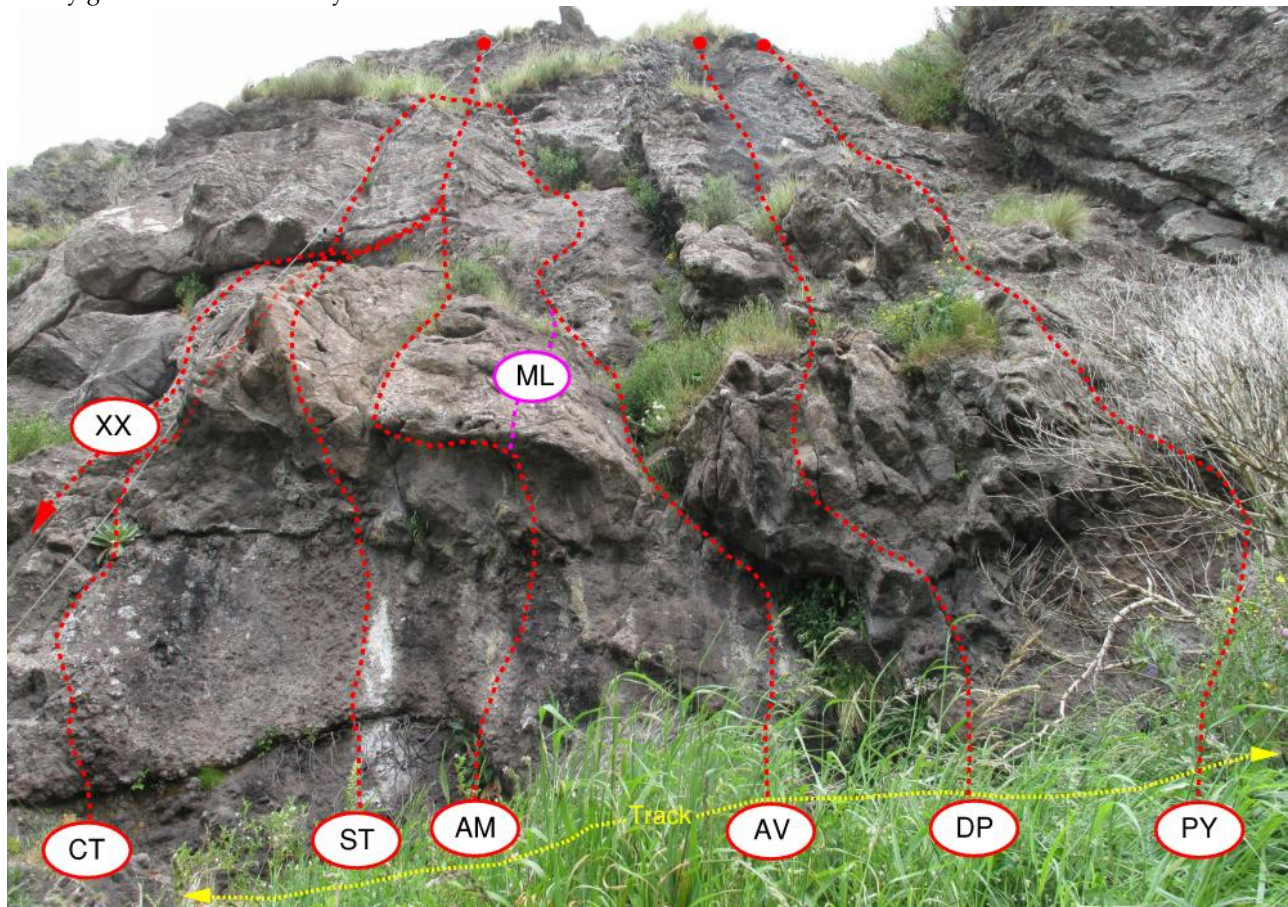
The Main Face is steeply undercut & the start of the climbs is generally gymnastic.

DR Duncan's Route 18 S1 Sp 7Br *Duncan Sherratt, April 2012*

Left angling line of bolts, with good climbing cranking through chicken-heads at the bottom, then cruise through the mid-section to enjoy the crux near the top before moving up & L to a DBA.

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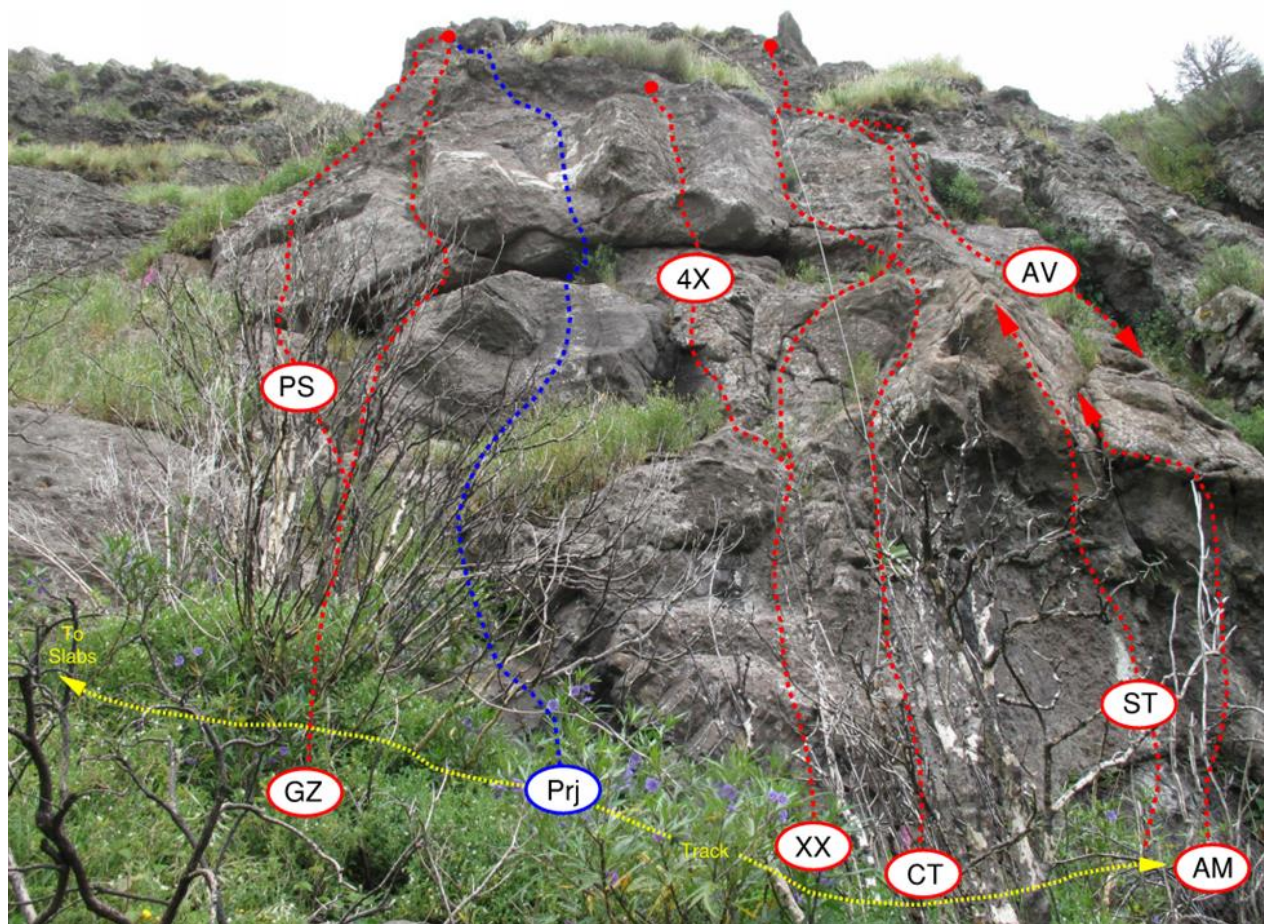
PY	Pyrotechnic	21	S1	Sp	9Br	★★	<i>Warwick Matheson, 2017</i>
Starts under the overhang, with a low first staple, bouldery onto the bulge then diagonally L to a hole Stp3, go straight up from here on improving holds to the DBA of 'DR'.							
DP	Dust Pipe	21	S1	Sp	7Br		<i>Tony Burnell, 2019</i>
Start below the blocky looking overhanging groove to the R of 'AV', straight up, interesting moves through steep rock, go L of Br1 & R of Br2 before going back L to Br3 from here straight up the easier groove system to a DBA.							
AV	Ash Vegas	21	S1	Sp	8Br	★★	<i>Tony Burnell, 2018</i>
Start at the R side of the roof at the base of the ramp, up past Br1 to holds, clip Br2 then move L & up through the notch, easier climbing staying R of Br5 before going L & clipping the last 2 staples on 'XX', go up to a common DBA.							
ML	Missing Link	23	S2	Sp	7Br		<i>Tony Burnell, 2019</i>
A short link up between 'AV' & 'AM', as for 'AM' to the roof, from here break out R to join 'AV' at Br4, finish up this to a common DBA.							
AM	Annihilation Mix	24	S1	Sp	8Br	★★	<i>Tony Burnell, 2018</i>
Start under the centre of the roof, climb straight up past 2Br, continue up to the lip then move L to the flake crack, up this to easy ground before the tricky arete of 'XX' finish at the common DBA.							



ST	Slip of the Tongue	26	S1	Sp	8Br		<i>Owen Davies, 2022</i>
A direct line up the crossly wall past the tongue & up the prow to the ledge, finish as for 'XX' or 'CT'.							
CT	Compression Test	25	S1	Sp	5Br	★★	<i>Tony Burnell, 2018</i>
Start at the L end of the roof, tricky move onto the black face then up a vague groove, cross the dyke & move R up a brown slab to a ledge. Climb the steep groove L of the arete of 'XX' (crux) past 2Br, going R to finish at the common DBA.							
XX	XX	21	S1	Sp	8Br	★	<i>Tony Burnell, 2018</i>
We thought this climb was pretty dirty, it had been bolted about 18 months previously but not climbed. Start up the slab just L of the end of the overhanging section. After traversing R there is a blunt rib with 2Stp, climb this direct with difficulty (crux) to another ledge then up the final slab to a common DBA. (Equipped by Grant Piper)							
4X	4X	26	S1	Sp	6Br	★★	<i>Tony Burnell, 2022</i>
Start as for 'XX', after Br3 step L into a short black groove, go up the groove & across the slab to the roof below the central groove, hard moves into & out of the groove to land on a ledge with an old lower off.							

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Prj S1 Sp 7Br Tony Burnell
 Closed project.
GZ Ground Zero 19 S1 Sp 7Br ★★ Grant Piper, 2017
 Start 3mts L of the overhanging section at a slab, go up past an overlap & follow the corner system at the end of the crag.



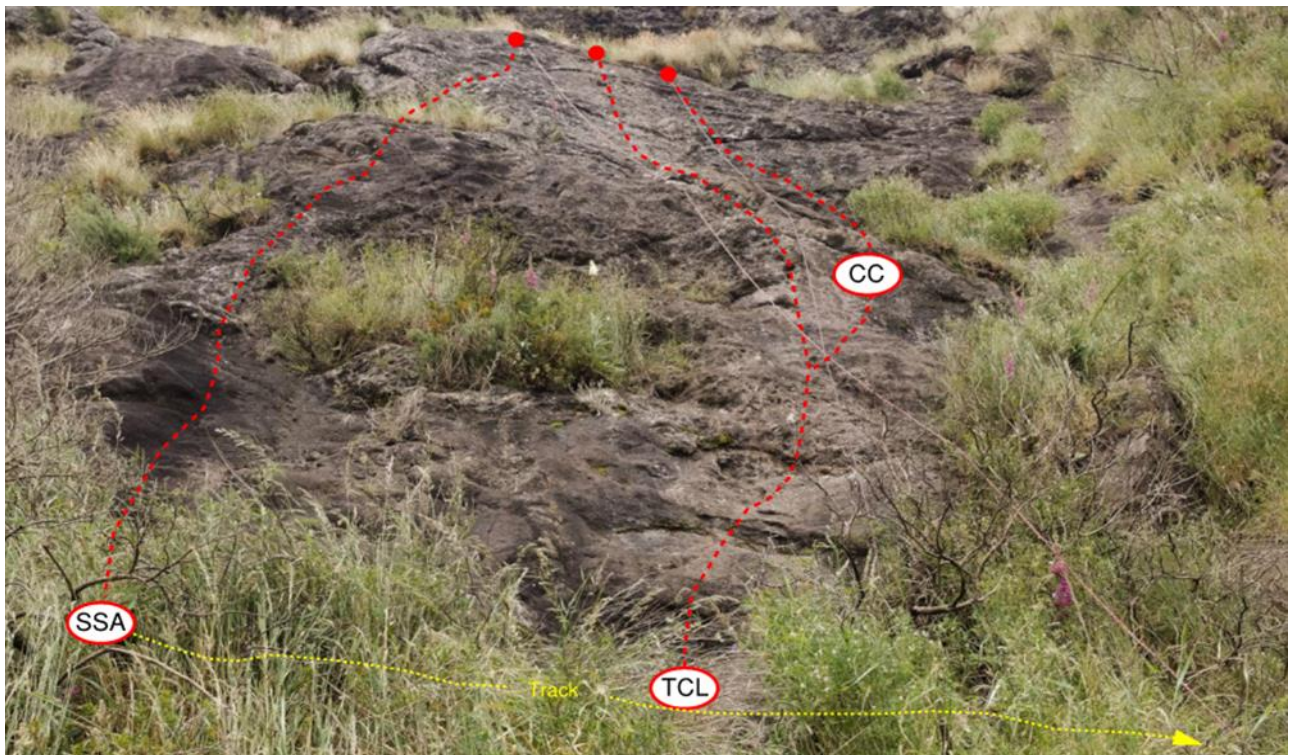
PS Pocket Symphony 23 S1 Sp 8Br ★★ Tony Burnell, 2022
 Start as for 'GZ' to Br3, follow the slab L to the foot of two steeper walls with an overlap, go straight up without the L arete or the gorse & head up & R to the anchor of 'GZ'.

No1 Slab

There are 2 long slabs, No1 slab is accessed by going uphill from the start of 'GZ'.

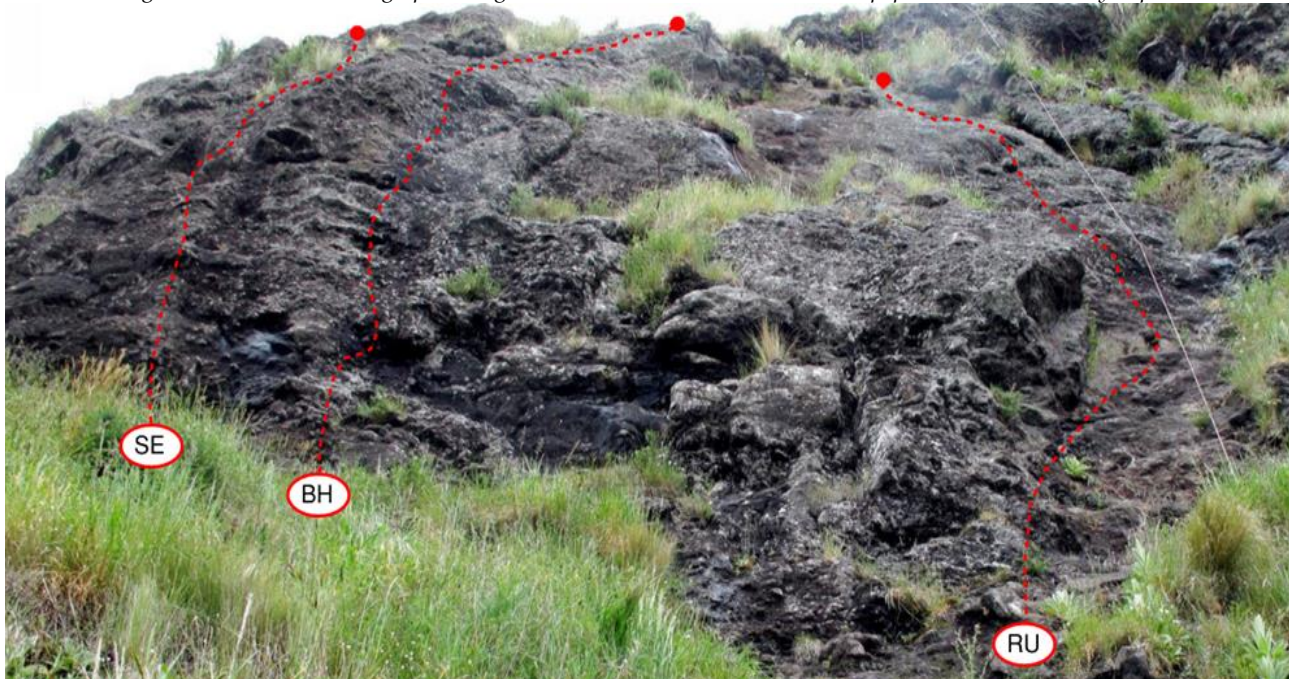
CC Christmas Curry 18 S1 Sp 8Br Alexandria Natalia, 2018
 Start by climbing 'TCL' to Br2, step R & then go straight up past 2 big ledges to the final slab & a DBA.
TCL The Central Line 18 S1 Sp 8Br ★★ Tony Burnell, 2018
 Climbs straight up the centre of the buttress, start at the single chain link belay point. Head R across the slabby wall before heading straight up through a groove to a large ledge. Continue straight up, steeply at first then the angle drops back & easier climbing leads to an anchor point.
SAA Sleep Sliding Away 17 S1 Sp 8Br ★★ Simon Courtois, 2018
 Start approx. 3mts L of 'TCL' at a chain, follow the R trending, brown/black slab till it starts to steepen up. Move up into another shall R trending groove & continue straight up to a DBA.

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No2 Slab

Continue along under No1 Slab heading up hill to get to No2 Slab, these are not the most popular climbs at & may require a brush.



RU Round Up 16 S1 Sp 8Br Grant Piper 2017

Start on the R side of the face, follow the line of staples curving up & around to the L till the wall gets steeper & you reach an anchor point

BH Black Humour 19 S1 Sp 7Br Grant Piper 2017

The middle line, move R from the start & follow a series of shallow grooves, then veer R & go up to the anchor point

SE Scorched Earth 18 S1 Sp 7Br Grant Piper 2017

At the very L side of the slabs, move up to pass between two small roofs. When the angle eases continue up to the anchor point

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Air Traffic Control Buttress Access & Restrictions

Restrictions: Dogs must be on a lead

Permission: None required

GPS: -43.635513, 172.624218

Distance: 600mts

Walk Time: 8mins

Ownership: DOC Reserve

From the car park at the Sign of the Bellbird walk south along the Crater Rim Walkway through the bush for about 5 minutes until you can see the crag above, keep on the track until you can scramble up via a short slab to the foot of the climbing area.

To access the top of the crag, drive along the Summit Road from The Sign of The Kiwi past the Sign of the Bell Birdpark at the pull in on the town side just after the T junction. Walk up the road, at the second hairpin bend contour round to the L (5 metres) & there is an abseil point on the rock just above head height.

There is little seismic damage & little in the way of loose rock at the top.

Following the bush fires the crag is incredibly dusty/dirty & in need of a clean-up.



UTD Under the Dome 22 S1 Sp 9Br *Tony Burnell, 2018*

Climbs directly up the abseil line. Start in a bottomless groove with Br on L wall, climb the groove into a scoop (crux) then up the pumpy leaning wall to exit up onto the top slab via a massive chicken head, continue up past 2Br to a DBA.

RDR Radar O'Reilly 19 S1 Sp 8Br *Simon Courtois, 2008*

Start just L of the second short groove at the base of the crag, Br1 is an extended chain. Mantle shelf start gets you into a short corner, up this exit R then go back L and straight up. Easier climbing through the lichenous scoop to finish. Anchor station in the centre of the back wall

GCT Ground Control to Major Tom 21 S1 Sp 9Br *Simon Courtois, 2013*

Pretty much the centre of the buttress. Steep face climbing to past 3Br's, move leftwards then up easier climbing. Br7 is out of view round to the R, clip this then move back L & up the crux groove to finish. Joint anchor with 'ROR'

MA Malaise Airways 19 S1 Sp 6Br *Simon Courtois, 2014*

Starts at the L side of the buttress, just R of the continuous groove of 'PE'. Move up the face thru steep steps, at Br4 move R & go up into an overhanging groove, straight up & over onto the slab, past Br6 to a DBA at the top of the slab

PE Pilot Error 16 S1 Sp 6Br *Anton Green, 2018*

Climbs the groove at the L side of the buttress, follow the groove straight up past a no hands resting ledge, pull into the final groove R of 'MA' then go back R to the anchor of 'SP'.

SP Sky pilot 19 S1 Sp 6Br *Aleksandria Natalia, 2018*

The route was prepared by *Simon Courtois* but stolen from under his nose. Starts at the very L side of the crag just beyond the start of 'PE'. Move L climb directly up the gritstone like face & pockets, continue in similar style to the base of the red arête, follow this before moving R onto the face at the top & exiting onto the ledge above.

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