



Port Hills Climbing

BIVVY
CRAG
&
ATC

Bivvy Crag &
Minor Crag
Rev. K
Tony Burnell (2024)



Thanks to *Conor Boyd IT* for creating and hosting the website (www.porthillscimbing.nz)

Thanks also to *Aspiring Safety Limited* for all their support, see them for all your climbing needs

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 Crag are home to rare species of geckos and native flora and fauna take care not to disturb wildlife or damage native plants.

Areas covered by this guide are:

Bivvy Rock

Air Traffic Control Buttress

Coopers Knob

Allandale Crag

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

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

Bivvy Rock was initially developed by *Simon Courtois* in 2007 and the second wave of his route development continued after the 2010/2011 Canterbury earthquakes. Next on the scene were *Grant Piper* and friends post the Port Hills fires adding 5 more climbs, more recently *Simon and Tony Burnell* continued the development adding a further eight routes and 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 and continuing in 2013 then the last wave of climbs in 2018 by various artists

Allandale Crag is mainly located on property belonging to Living Springs Camp and Conference Centre and permission to climb here should be sought. The roadside slab is on public land and there are three sets of top-rope anchors easily accessible along the top of the crag. It is not clear who climbed the routes here but they must have been done pre the 2010/2011 earthquakes.

Coopers Knob is split into two areas, the large knob and the small knob. The small knob is the most westerly and is located on property belonging to Living Springs Camp and Conference Centre and permission to climb here should be sought. Between the large and small knobs is a steep descent gully.

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 and 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.

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

Bivvy Rock and Minor Crag:2024

information available, so the lines indicated are the ones we climbed and thought the most logical. If you want to know where a route goes read the text as well as looking at the topos.

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 and wear a helmet. It is a good idea to take a brush and 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

Seismically Damaged climbs are marked in

YELLOW

RED

PINK

GREEN

WHITE

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used

Sp - Denotes Sport Route.

Tr - Denotes Trad Route.

Mp - Mixed Protection Route (bolts and trad).

right and left - Denote right and left.

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 and 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 and 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.

S1 - A straight forward climb with good protection and 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 and a fall could result in serious injury.

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

Access and Restrictions

Area	GPS	Distance	Walk Time	Restrictions
Bivvy Rock				Dogs must be on a lead
Parking	-43.623987, 172.628808	-	-	No permission required
Crag	-43.626421, 172.627971	600mts	8 mins	
Air Traffic Control				Dogs must be on a lead
Parking	-43.635786, 172.620578	-	-	No permission required
Crag	-43.635513, 172.62421	600mts	8 mins	
Allandale Crag				Dogs must be on a lead
Parking	-43.651373, 172.622824	-	-	Private property permission
Crag	-43.651866, 172.623558	100mts	5 mins	required Living Springs
Coopers Knob				Dogs must be on a lead
Parking	-43.655649, 172.6232344	-	-	Private property permission
Crag	-43.661088, 172.6246367	750mts	15 mins	required Living Springs

Bivvy Rock and Minor Crags:2024

Bivvy Rock. *Bivvy Rock* is a collection of buttresses both steep and slabby located just above *Ella Track*. Park opposite Kennedy's Bush on the Summit Rd.



From the parking walk west along the *Crater Rim Walkway*, then turn left along *Ella Track* and, contour round under the crag and past a land slip, at the end of the crag a short track leads back up right 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.



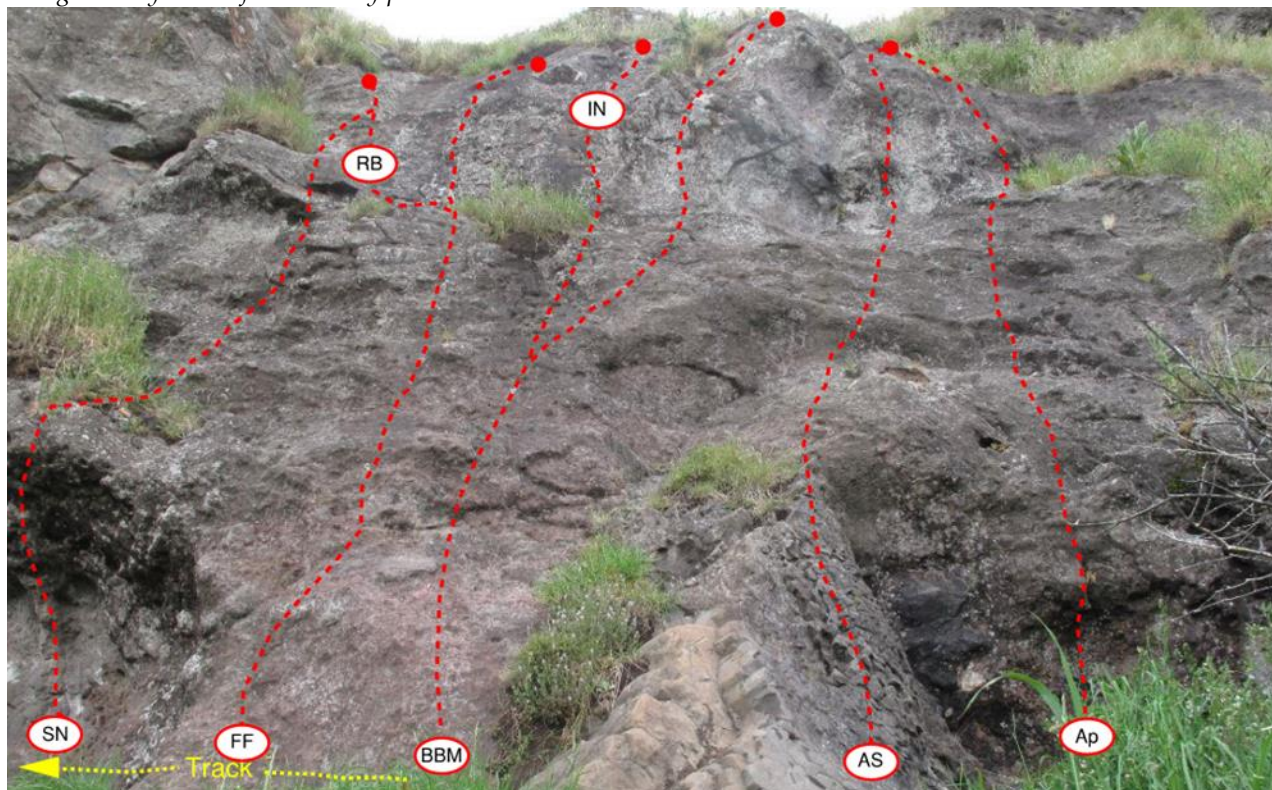
Beginners Wall. *The slabby wall just above the track as you head towards the main crag. A small low angled buttress that currently has 4 lines, there are 3 single glue-in bolts just above the track.*

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 left 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 right to a DBA.						
D	D	10	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Unknown, 2020</i>
Cleaned slabby wall to a DBA, trending left from a vague groove.						

Bivvy Rock and Minor Crag:2024



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



Ap Apnea 18 S1 Sp 6Br

Simon Courtois, 2022

Start off a convenient rock to the right 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

Simon Courtois, 2011

Move around to the right side of the dyke, head up the wall left of the corner and on to the slab, go diagonally right across the slab before heading straight up steeper rock near the top.

Bivvy Rock and Minor Crags:2024

BBM Broke Back Mountain 18 S1 Sp 7Br Simon Courtois, 2011
Climb 2/3rds of the way up 'In' (the central line), move right then go up the open groove past the saddle horn to finish.

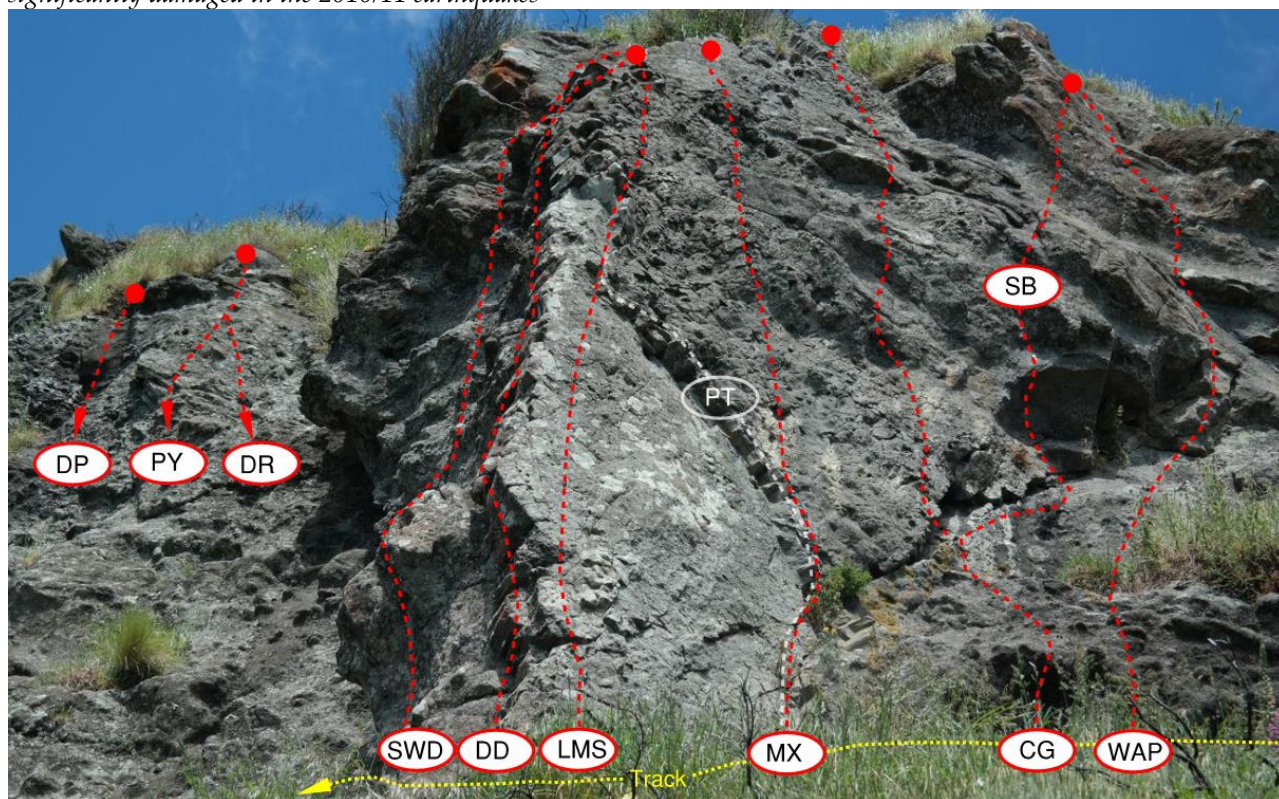
In Insomnia 17 S1 Sp 7Br Simon Courtois, 2011
Climb straight up the most central line of Br's using the dyke in the black streak, it gets steeper at the top.

FF Faux Fur 17 S1 Sp 7Br Simon Courtois, 2011
From the anchor on the slab veer left across the wall then straight up moving sharp right at the top to the anchors.

RP Rupert's Blanket 15 S1 Sp 7Br Simon Courtois, 2011
From the anchor on the slab veer left across the wall as for 'FF', above Br4 go left and up past a water streak to the anchors, tricky finish.

SN SNAFU 21 S1 Sp 7Br Tony Burnell, 2022
Starts under the roof, up steeply and 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 left, then go up and join 'RB'.

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



WAP Tiddly-winks 22 S2 Sp 2Br Howie McGee, 2012
Pre-named before being climbed in 2012. Pull over the roof past a Br and a lot of grass, veer right round the steep section stepping back left 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, and rock was my pillow too). Run out, start up, and over, the bulge to the right of the corner system, move into the crack system and once below the featured wall step out left and go straight up the wall right of centre, towards, if you traverse around left into 'ST' this reduces the grade.

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PT Pillar Talk

Simon Courtois, 2007

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

MX Matrix 18 S1 Sp 5Br

Tony Burnell, 2022

Start up what would have been 'PT' then go straight up the wall staying right of 'LMS' and left of 'CG' the climb has its own DBA.

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 right side of the prominent arête, veer slightly right 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

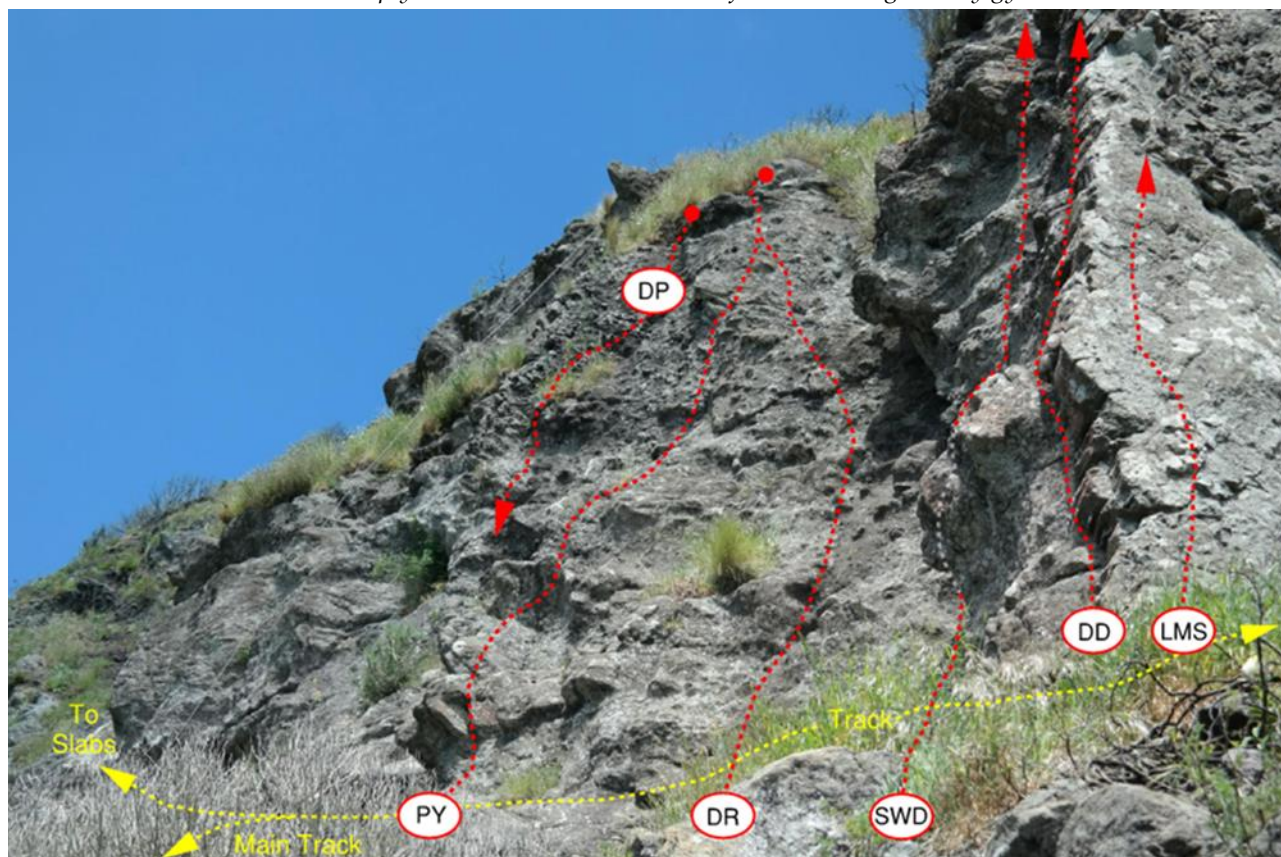
This route climbs the arête on its end, at the last bolt go straight up the rib to the top to a common DBA.

SWD Sleep When Your Dead 18 S1 Sp 5Br

Owain Scullion Tom Stubbs, 2016

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

Main Face. *This is the steeply undercut wall and 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 and left to a DBA.

PY Pyrotechnic 21 S1 Sp 9Br ★★

Warwick Matheson, 2017

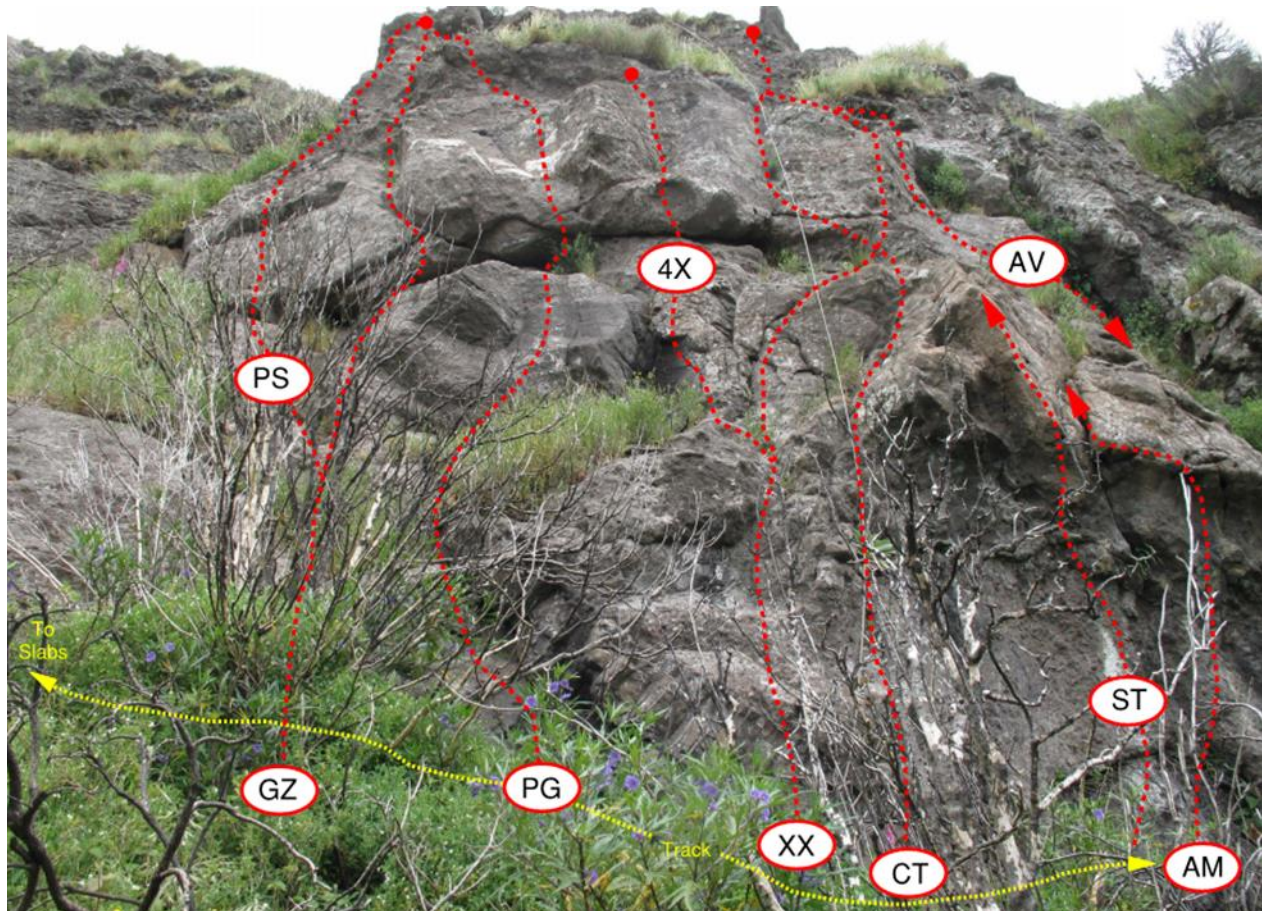
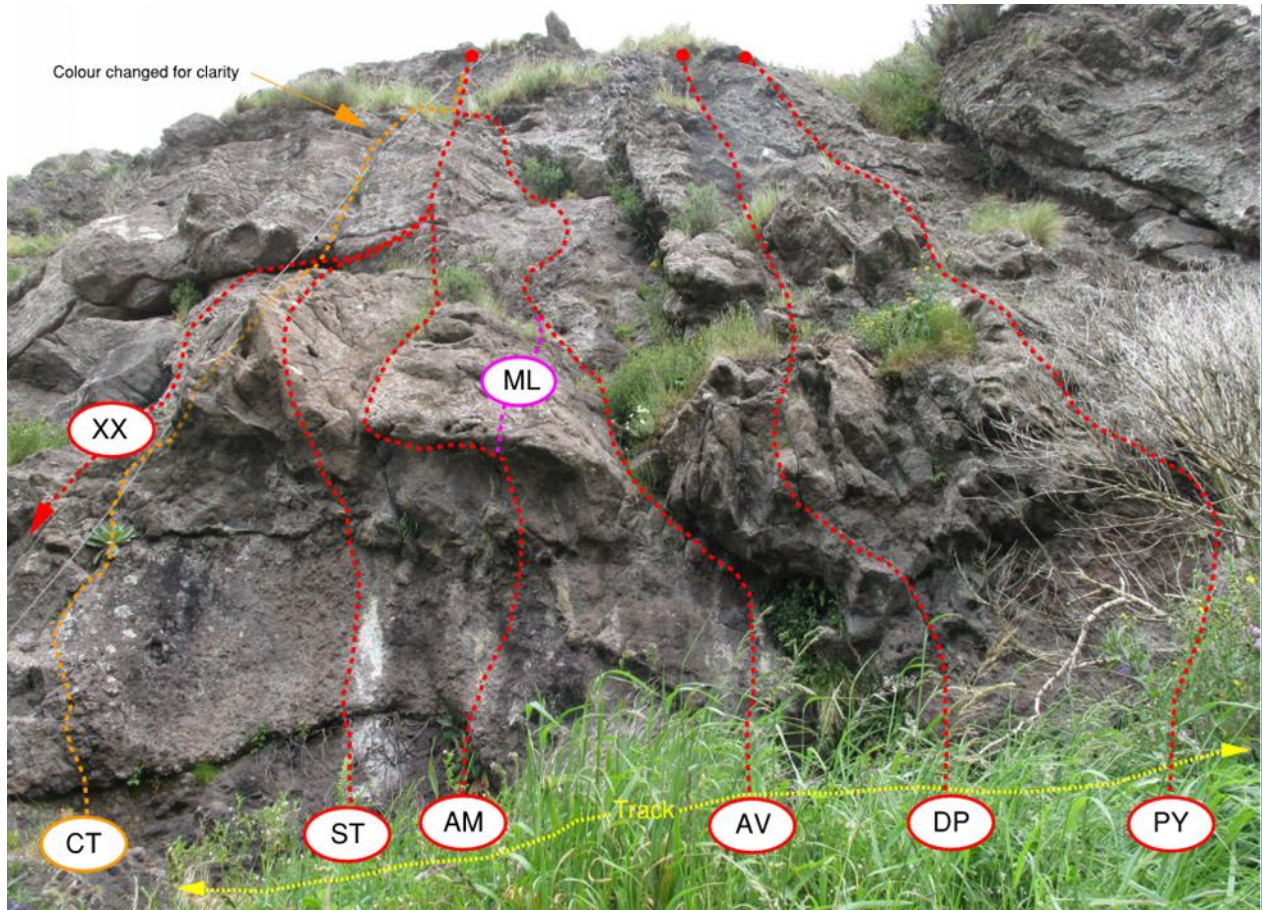
Starts under the overhang, with a low first staple, bouldery onto the bulge then diagonally left to a hole Stp3, go straight up from here on improving holds to the DBA of 'DR'.

DP Dust Pipe 21 S1 Sp 7Br

Tony Burnell, 2019

Start below the blocky looking overhanging groove to the right of 'AV', straight up, interesting moves through steep rock, go left of Br1 and right of Br2 before going back left to Br3 from here straight up the easier groove system to a DBA.

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AV Ash Vegas 21 S1 Sp 8Br ★★ Tony Burnell, 2018

Start at the right side of the roof at the base of the ramp, up past Br1 to holds, clip Br2 then move left and up through the notch, easier climbing staying right of Br5 before going left and clipping the last 2 staples on 'XX', go up to a common DBA.

ML Missing Link 23 S2 Sp 7Br Tony Burnell, 2019

A short link up between 'AV' and 'AM', as for 'AM' to the roof, from here break out right to join 'AV' at Br4, finish up this to a common DBA.

AM Annihilation Mix 24 S1 Sp 8Br ★★ Tony Burnell, 2018

Start under the centre of the roof, climb straight up past 2Br, continue up to the lip then move left 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 Owen Davies, 2022

A direct line up the crossly wall past the tongue and up the prow to the ledge, finish as for 'XX' or 'CT'.

CT Compression Test 25 S1 Sp 5Br ★★ Tony Burnell, 2018

Start at the left end of the roof, tricky move onto the black face then up a vague groove, cross the dyke and move right up a brown slab to a ledge. Climb the steep groove left of the arete of 'XX' (crux) past 2Br, going right to finish at the common DBA.

XX XX 21 S1 Sp 8Br ★ Tony Burnell, 2018

We thought this climb was pretty dirty, it had been bolted about 18 months previously but not climbed. Start up the slab just left of the end of the overhanging section. After traversing right 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 ★★ Tony Burnell, 2022

Start as for 'XX', after Br3 step left into a short black groove, go up the groove and across the slab to the roof below the central groove, hard moves into and out of the groove to land on a ledge with an old lower off.

PG Pressure Gauge 25 S1 Sp 7Br ★ David Jefferson, 2023

Start of the right of 'GZ' go up and right into a leaning corner, a tricky move to get you up to the base of an open groove, hard moves to get established in the groove then go over a lip and left to the belay of 'GZ'.

GZ Ground Zero 19 S1 Sp 7Br ★★ Grant Piper, 2017

Start 3mts left of the overhanging section at a slab, go up past an overlap and 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 left to the foot of two steeper walls with an overlap, go straight up without the left arete or the gorse and head up and right to the anchor of 'GZ'.

No. 1 & 2 Slabs. There are 2 long slabs, No1 slab is accessed by going uphill from the start of 'GZ'. For No.2 Slab continue heading up hill past No1 Slab, these are not the most popular climbs at and may require a brush.

CC Christmas Curry 18 S1 Sp 8Br Alexandria Natalia, 2018

Start by climbing 'TCL' to Br2, step right and then go straight up past 2 big ledges to the final slab and a DBA.

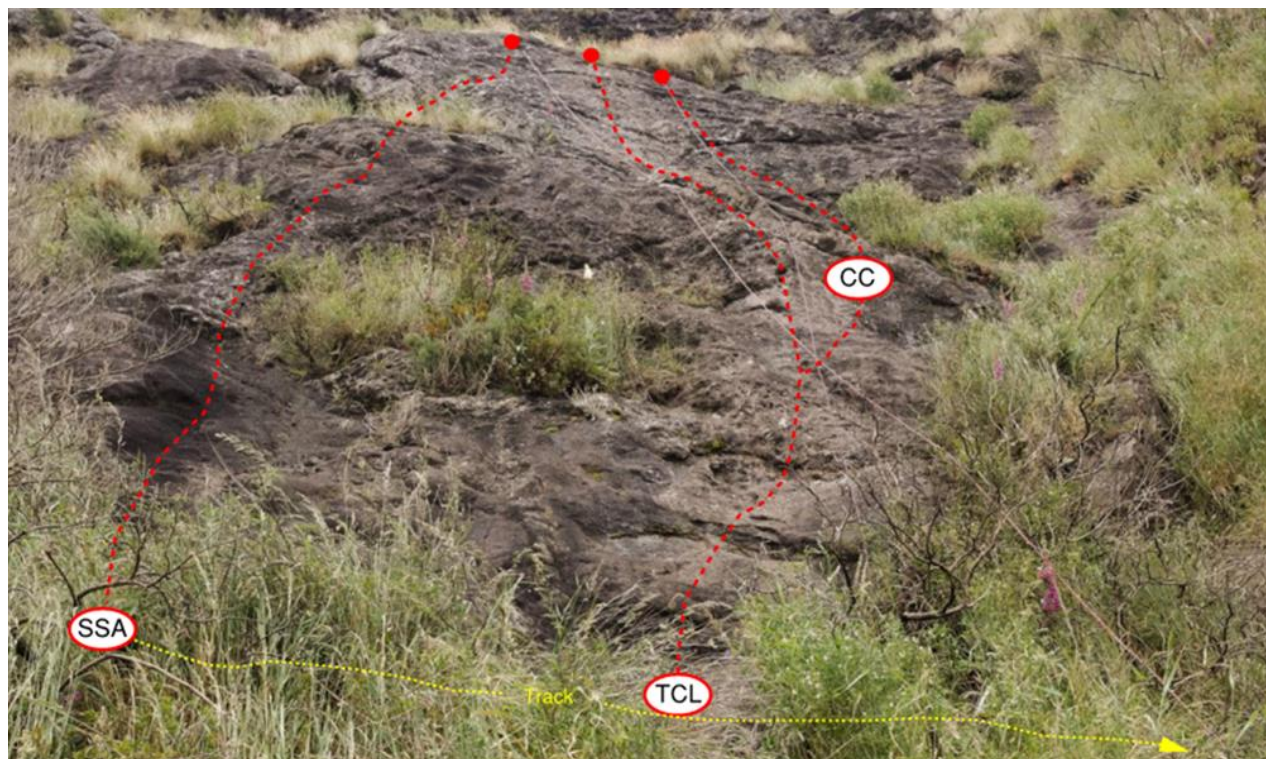
TCL The Central Line 18 S1 Sp 8Br ★★ Tony Burnell, 2018

Climbs straight up the centre of the buttress, start at the single chain link belay point. Head right 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 and easier climbing leads to an anchor point.

SAA Sleep Sliding Away 17 S1 Sp 8Br ★★ Simon Courtois, 2018

Start approx. 3mts left of 'TCL' at a chain, follow the right trending, brown/black slab till it starts to steepen up. Move up into another shall right trending groove and continue straight up to a DBA.

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RU Round Up 16 S1 Sp 8Br *Grant Piper 2017*

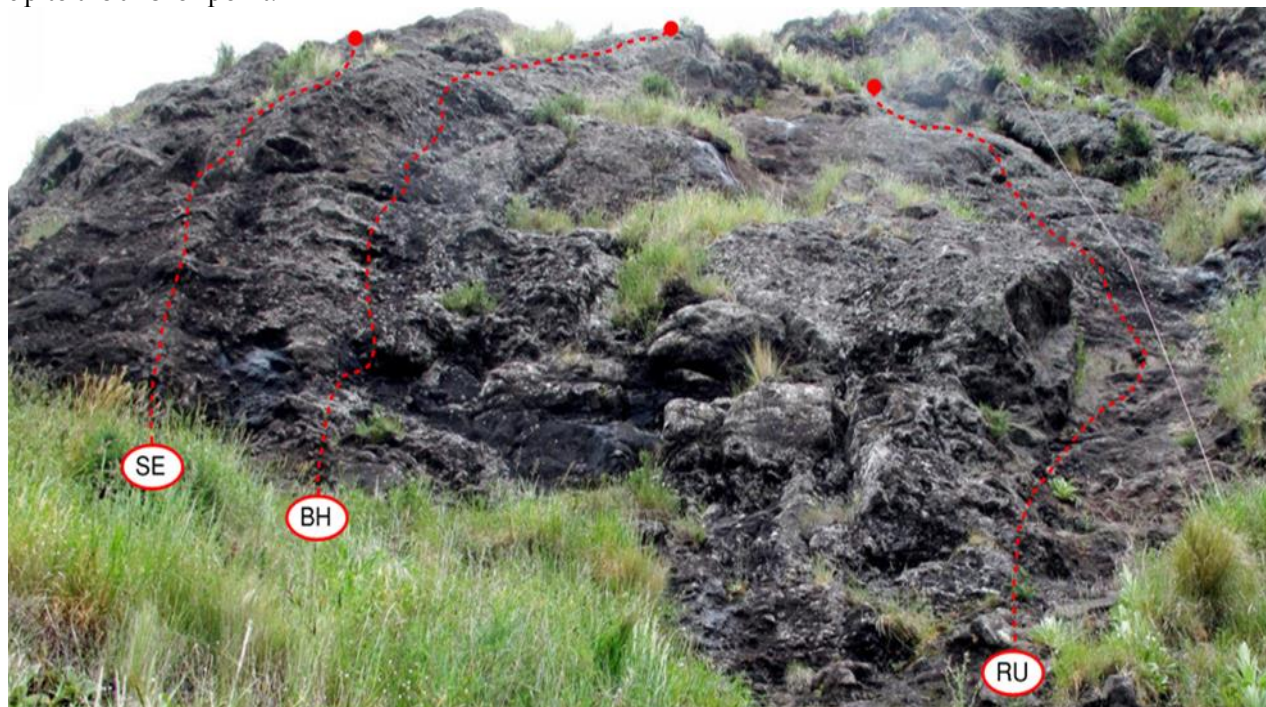
Start on the right side of the face, follow the line of staples curving up and around to the left till the wall gets steeper and you reach an anchor point

BH Black Humour 19 S1 Sp 7Br *Grant Piper 2017*

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

SE Scorched Earth 18 S1 Sp 7Br *Grant Piper 2017*

At the very left 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. 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 left (5 metres) and there is an abseil point on the rock just above head height. There is little seismic damage and little in the way of loose rock at the top.

Following the bush fires the crag is incredibly dusty/dirty and 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 left 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 left 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 right then go back left 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 right, clip this then move back left and up the crux groove to finish. Joint anchor with 'ROR'

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

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

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

Climbs the groove at the left side of the buttress, follow the groove straight up past a no hands resting ledge, pull into the final groove right of 'MA' then go back right 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 left side of the crag just beyond the start of 'PE'. Move left climb directly up the gritstone like face and pockets, continue in similar style to the base of the red arête, follow this before moving right onto the face at the top and exiting onto the ledge above.

Bivvy Rock and Minor Crag:2024



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Allandale Crag. Allandale Crag is located just off the *Crater Rim Walkway* overlooking the estuary at Teddington. There is parking on the bend on the right of Summit Rd when approaching from *The Sign of the Kiwi*. Cross the road and go over a stile at the fence line, turn right to go across to the crag.

The crag naturally splits into four areas: *The Slab*, *The Shelf*, *The Green Wall* and *The Red Wall*, the whole crag is pretty dirty and lichenous.

The Slab is the first area you come to, this wall straddles the fence line, take care not to damage the fence. There are three sets of top rope anchors here.

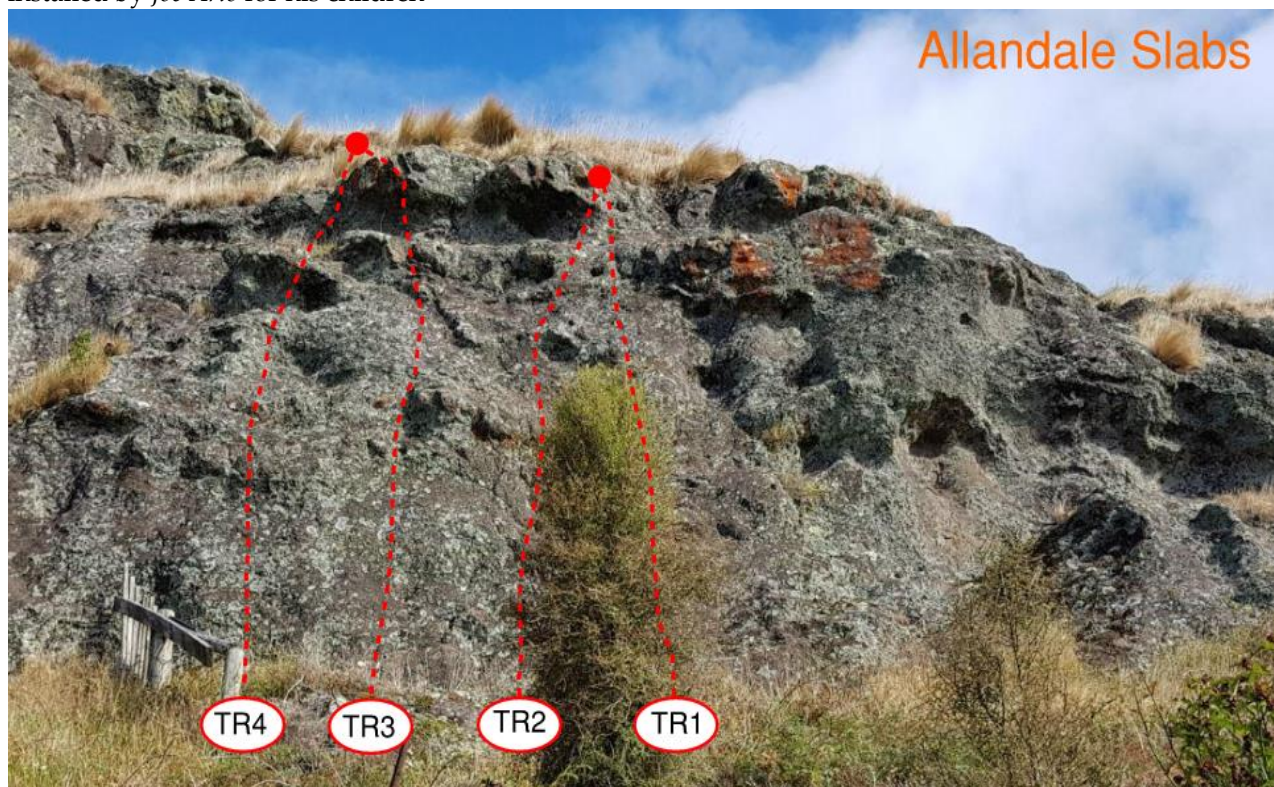
Hueco Wall is the next area, a low angled face leads up to a bulging head wall, there is a small cabbage tree at the right end and a prow at its far end.

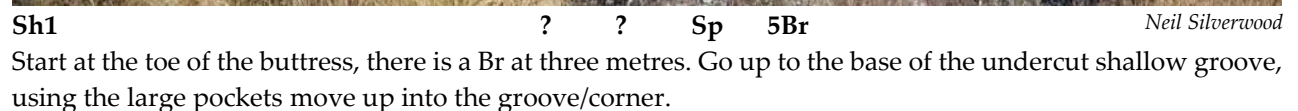
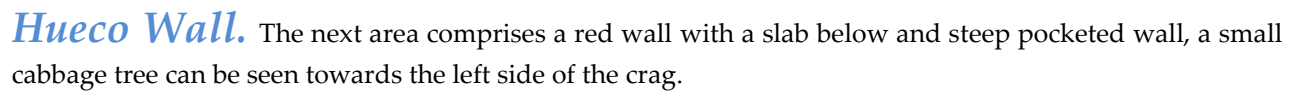
The Green Wall is just past the prow beyond a tree filled gully, a vertical face with steeper rock at the top.

The Red Wall has a prominent red rib at its right side, after this the crag disintegrates.



The Slab. This area straddles the fence line and has three sets of top rope anchors, take care around the top of the crag which can be accessed from the crater rim walkway. It is possible that these anchors were installed by *Joe Arts* for his children





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The Green Wall. Contour along under the crag to the next area, the central section looks like it could provide some good climbs. At the left side of the wall is some seismic damage with two bolts below it.



Gw1 ? ? Sp 4Br?

Neil Silverwood

Climb the easy angled wall via an almost staircase to reach the undercut left facing corner. Move up and right onto the steeper wall and follow the bolts.

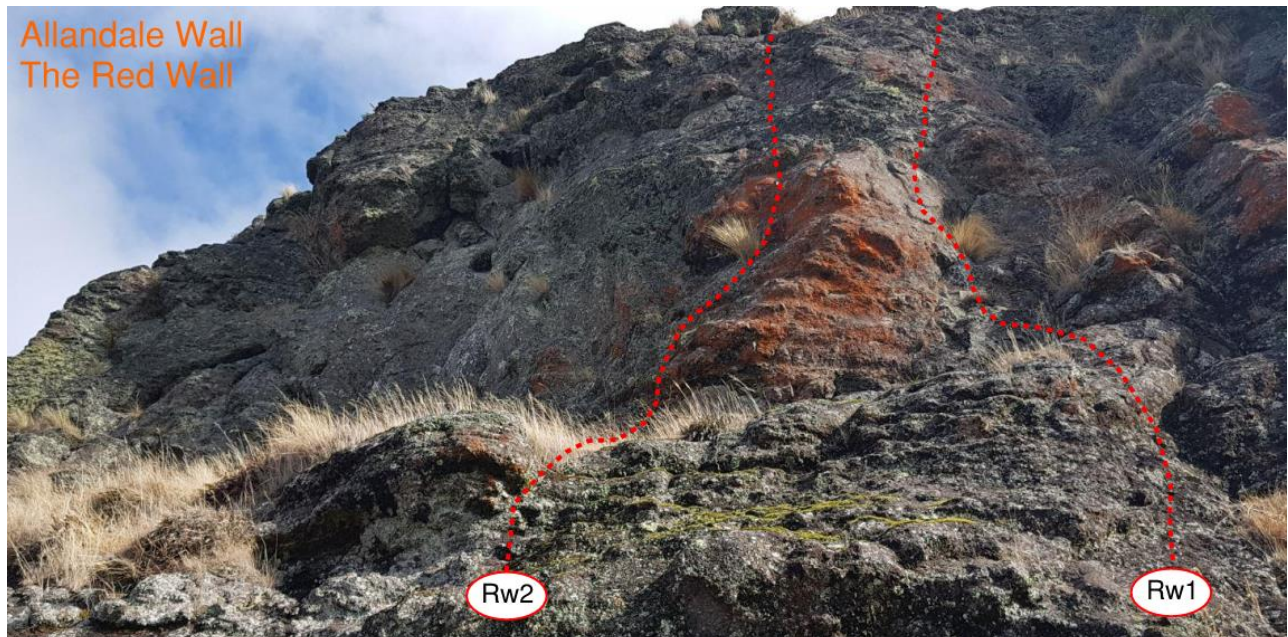
Gw2 ? ? Sp 4Br?

Neil Silverwood

Start directly below Br1 and climb straight up the toe of the buttress, there is a Br at three metres. Follow the sinuous shallow groove.

To the left side of the wall are some bolts leading in at an area of seismic damage, it is assumed this route collapsed.

The Red Wall. The final area with is the wall with a red rib just right of centre, there are two lines here but the number of bolts is unknown.



Rw1	?	?	Sp	4Br?	<i>Neil Silverwood</i>
Straight up dirty, but easy angled rock to weave your way up the left side of the red prow into the darker rock.					
Rw2	?	?	Sp	3Br?	<i>Neil Silverwood</i>
Scramble up the easy angled black corner, step left and head up the right side of red wall. There are only three bolts visible.					

Coopers Knob. This area is located on private land & accessed via the Christchurch City Council walking track through *Coopers Knob Reserve*.

There are two climbing areas: *Big Knob* & *Little Knob* divided by a gorse filled gully, access around the base of the crag is overgrown and access is almost impossible it is better to abseil in and force your way left or right. Big Knob is the crag below the trig point. There are four recorded lines on the two buttresses.



SA	Strictly Alpine	21	S2	Mp	7Br	<i>Simon Courtois, c.2008</i>
<i>Simons Knob: - A long three pitch climb with mixed protection on the buttress to the north of Coopers Knob and the trig point, the climb faces towards Allandale, the middle pitch is the best.</i>						
Gap	In the Gap	18	S2	Sp	4Br	<i>Hana Rakena, 1998</i>
<i>Coopers Knob: - A long climb with 7 or 8 Brs on the wall facing Gebbies Pass, the climb trends R on the left side of Little Knob.</i>						
<i>The next two climbs are best accessed by climbing 'AP' and abseiling down the western face.</i>						
PK	Presidential Kneepads	21	S2	Sp	7Br	<i>Tony Ward-Homes, 1998</i>
<i>Coopers Knob: - A long climb with 7 or 8 Brs on the wall facing Gebbies Pass, the climb trends R on the left side of Little Knob.</i>						
GhF	Graham Henry's Face	21	S2	Sp	10Br	<i>Simon Courtois, c.2008</i>
<i>Coopers Knob: - A long climb that takes the large overhang on the wall facing Gebbies Pass.</i>						
AP	Access Pitch	14	S1	Sp	5Br	<i>Simon Courtois, c2008</i>
<i>Coopers Knob: - Climbs the roadside face of the buttress onto the top of the knob.</i>						