



# BREEZE BAY

## PORTHILLS CLIMBING

**Breeze Bay Craggs  
Rev A**

Tony Burnell (2022)

## General

*Inclusion of any climbing area or climb in this guidebook does not mean that there is any R of public access. The Port Hills Crags are home to rare species of geckos & native flora & fauna take care not to disturb wildlife or damage native plants.*

The Breeze Bay Crags is a collection of buttresses overlooking the Whakaropa / Lyttelton Harbour in the DOC Godley Head Reserve, they are seldom visited despite their proximity to the road & the ease of access. The East Crags were the focus of the early exploration & have the most climbs, *East Crag Right* is probably the largest of the group.

The Breeze Bay Crags were first climbed on in 1996 & the last recorded lines were in 1997, first explored by the late *Phil Stuart Jones* & joined by *Joe Arts* & *Lindsay Main*. In 2021 *Tony Burnell* & *Simon Courtois* visited looking to establish some new lines & install anchor stations, to date 13 anchor stations have been installed, 13 new routes established, leaving one outstanding project. There is potential for still more climbs. All new routes are equipped with insitu anchor stations (DBA).

There is significant earthquake damage across the hillside here & at the crags however this is probably not the reason these crags are unpopular; it is more likely due to the lack of available information & anchors. The crag access is quick & easy, but it is really a summer venue, the crags are shady & have a white lichen coating that absorbs moisture giving an extremely insecure feeling.

## Access & Restrictions

**The Breeze Bay Crags are in the DOC Godley Head Reserve at Breezes Col.**

**Restrictions:** Dogs must be on a lead during lambing season

**Permission:** None required

### The Boiler Room

**GPS:** -43.592508, 172.786317      **Distance:** 300mts      **Walk Time:** 5mins      **Ownership:** DOC Reserve

### West Crag

**GPS:** -43.592633, 172.7877798      **Distance:** 600mts      **Walk Time:** 10mins      **Ownership:** DOC Reserve

### Trackside L

**GPS:** -43.592819, 172.7909367      **Distance:** 900mts      **Walk Time:** 12mins      **Ownership:** DOC Reserve

### Trackside R

**GPS:** -43.593252, 172.791964      **Distance:** 900mts      **Walk Time:** 15mins      **Ownership:** DOC Reserve

### East Crag L

**GPS:** -43.5934506, 172.79086      **Distance:** 1000mts      **Walk Time:** 17mins      **Ownership:** DOC Reserve

### East Crag R

**GPS:** -43.5936045, 172.7912247      **Distance:** 1000mts      **Walk Time:** 17mins      **Ownership:** DOC Reserve



From Sumner or Lyttelton go up to Evans Pass & turn East along the Summit Road towards Godley Head, after the second cattle grid, about 4.5kms from Evans Pass' there is a parking spot on the L at Breezes Col, the Anaconda bike track goes off here.

From the parking cross the road towards Godley Head, cross the stile at the fence & take the Godley Head Loop track heading east.

To get to the *Boiler Room* leave the track where it veers L & sidle across the hillside down to the end of the crag, to exit it is quicker to go up at the R end of the crag.

To get to the *West Crag* cross the head of the second major gully & descend the spur, eventually dropping into the gut & coming to the L end of the crag, *Middle Crag* is slightly higher & L of this point.

To get to the eastern crags continue along the loop track to past the top of the *Trackside Cliffs*, from here either head down & contour below *Trackside L* or come down the side of *Trackside R*, go down the spur & into an overgrown slip trending true L to reach *East Crag Right* at it the eastern end.

## Climbing Notes

**Warning, Climbing is Dangerous.** By choosing to climb here you accept must 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 at each individual buttress (Crag) are described from L to R.

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. Route names & grades in **red text** are of the routes damaged during the earthquakes, these routes are recorded in the guide roughly where they would have been located on the crag.

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

YELLOW

Sport routes are marked in

RED

Variations are marked in

PINK

Trad or mixed protection climbs are marked in

GREEN

Potential unclimbed lines are marked in

BLUE

Seismically Damaged climbs are marked in

WHITE

*The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used*

#Br - Denotes the number of bolt runners or staples. Mp - Denotes Mixed Protection Route (bolts & trad).

Sp - Denotes Sport Route.

So - Denotes solo route unprotectable.

Tr - Denotes Trad Route.

DBA - Denotes insitu anchor

○ - Bolt / chain link position (mixed pro Lines)

R & L - Denote R & L.

## Grading

Grades in this guide assume climbing on sight & placing the gear on lead.

The 'Ewbank Grading System' is not the best grading system when applied to mixed pro or 'boldly' bolted routes, it provides little in the way of information & is generally accepted as the technical difficulty of a particular 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

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.

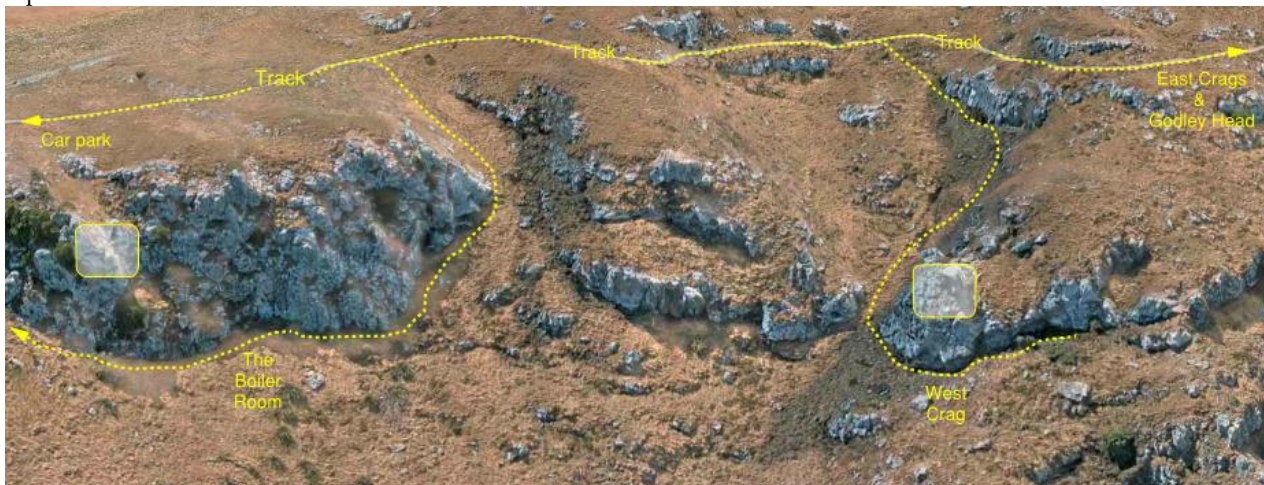
# Breeze Bay Crag:2022

- 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.

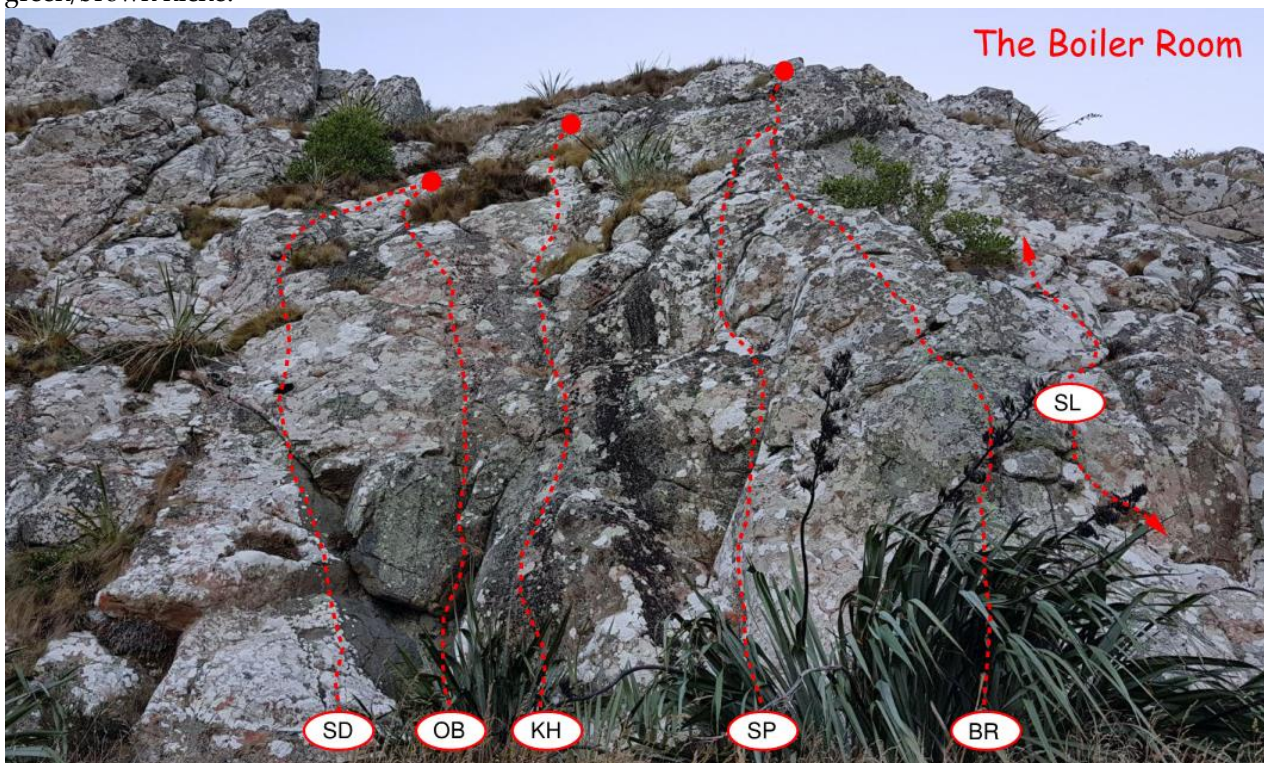
## *The Western Crag*

There is some obvious seismic damage at these crags (indicated below), what is not obvious is where rocks have pancaked or simply moved & become loose or unstable, be conscious of your own safety & that of others & take extreme care at the top of all climbs.



## *The Boiler Room, a newly developed crag only a couple of minutes from the parking spot*

Easily accessed by angling slightly down hill & across from the main track. The L side of the main face is broken & vegetated, there are several flax bushes along the crag & roughly in the centre of the face is a green/brown niche.



SD Summer Dream

17 S1 Sp 5Br

Simon Courtois, July 2021

Cross the slab heading L to a triangular roof, move up past a hole in the pink rock before skirting the grass

# Breeze Bay Crags:2022

to DBA out L

OB	The Old Boiler	18	S1	Sp	4Br
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*Tony Burnell, July 2021*

Start L of the flax, move up the short slab to a roof, follow the R side weakness, at the top of the weakness move out L onto the pink rock then straight up to DBA.

KH	Keel Haul	19	S1	Sp	5Br
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*Tony Burnell, July 2021*

Start R of the short steep groove behind the flax, move up steep rock to an angled orange corner, go straight up following a weakness, before weaving around 2 grassed areas to a DBA.

SP Steam Punk 19 S1 Sp 6Br

*Simon Courtois, Sept 2021*

Start in the corner on the L side of the flax. Head up into the groove system & passing a couple of hollow features before moving L again into a shallow groove, layback L into the upper groove & go up the short shallow chimney, finish up & R using a common Br on 'BR' to the mantle-shelf finish & DBA.



BR	The Boiler Room	21	S1	Sp	5Br
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*Tony Burnell, Sept 2021*

Start on the R of the flax, go up a short corner to the base of the steeper darker wall & Br1 from the undercut & Br2 make hard moves up the blind crack before moving out L & up the solid slabby pink rock groove via ledges to a mantle-shelf finish & a DBA. *Graded for not using the arete out R.*

SL	Simons Line	19/20	S1	Sp	7Br
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Simon Courtois, Sept 2021

Start at the R side of the wide pink groove, move up & out L past Br1 to a series of layaways, past Br2 onto the ledge at Br3, go over, or round, the white block into the groove above, follow this past 4Br then move out R to the DBA of 'BP'.

**BP**      **Boarding Party**                          **22**    **S1**     **Sp**    **6Br**

*Tony Burnell, Sept 2021*

Start on the R of a small broadleaf tree below an undercut prow, bouldery start, climb up to the roof & onto the prow, after Br2 swarm over the deck & into the open groove with tricky moves past the crow's nest & steep ground to easier climbing & a DBA.

## West Crag

The 'West Crag' was one of the three original crags developed in Breeze Bay. The rock is fairly sound but there has been significant seismic damage around the top of the crag. The main features of the wall are the sinuous corner of 'Roaring Forties' & the triangular roof approximately in the centre of the main face. The location of one of the early climbs at the L side of the crag, 'Zephyr', is not obvious & may have disappeared in the 2011 earthquakes the description is shown in RED for completeness.

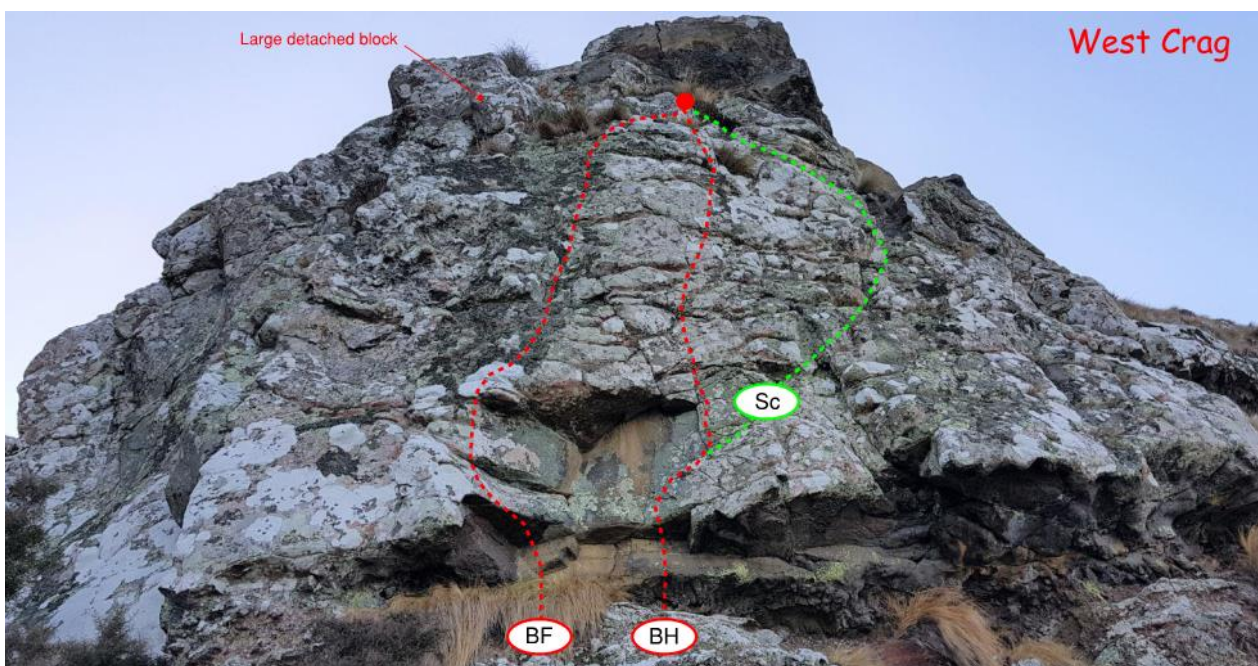
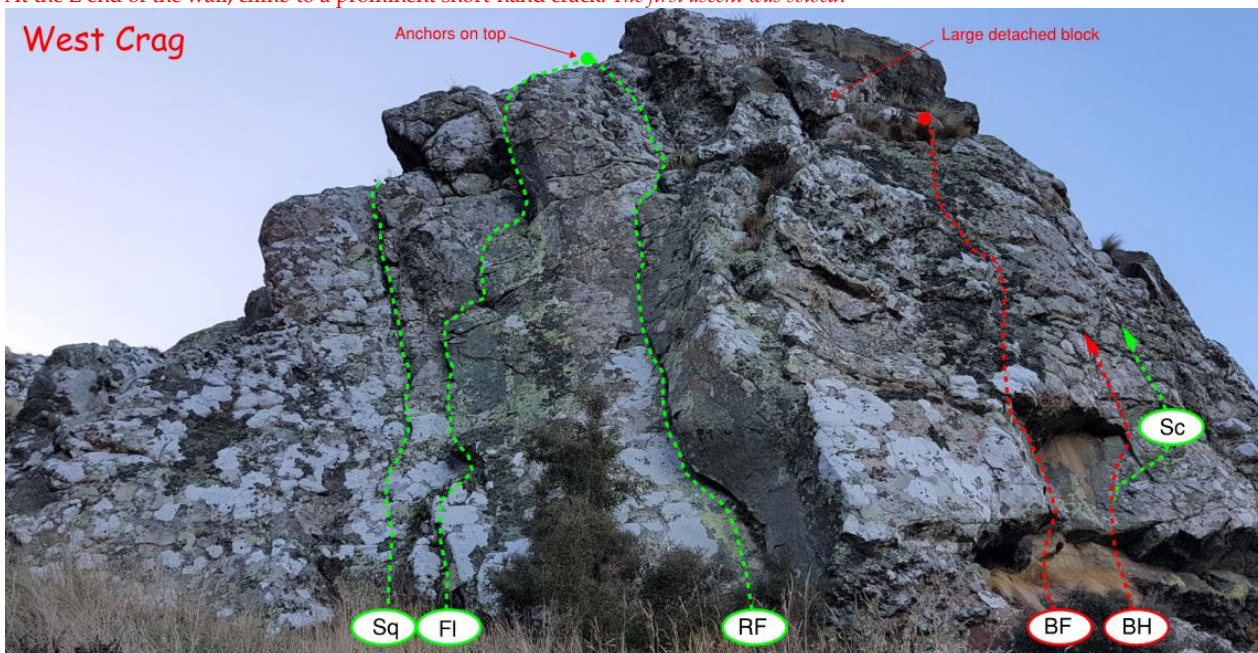
# Breeze Bay Crags:2022

**Zephyr**

**12 S3 Tr 0Br**

Lindsay Main, 1996

At the L end of the wall, climb to a prominent short-hand crack. *The first ascent was soloed.*



**Sq Squall 16 S3 Tr 0Br**

Phil Stuart Jones, 1996

Up the shallow groove on good holds (but little pro) to the crack. Place pro, pull through, no anchors.

**Fl Flatus 18 S3 Tr 0Br**

Phil Stuart Jones, 1996

Take the wall R of the shallow groove to the horizontal slot (thread?) then to the loose block. Stabilise this with some pro before mantling onto it, there is now a DBA on the slab as you top out.

**RF Roaring Forties 19 S3 Tr 0Br**

Lindsay Main, 1996

The obvious natural line of the crag, taking the L facing corner, a DBA has been installed on top as for 'Fl'. *The arete to the L of 'RF' was top roped in 1996 by Phil Stuart Jones but never equipped.*

**BF Blow Fly 23 S1 Sp 5Br**

Tony Burnell, 2021

From the L end of the ledge at 2mts, hard moves to get round the L end of the roof to easier climbing above moving R to a common DBA.

# Breeze Bay Crags:2022

**BH Blow Hard**

**20 S1 Sp 4Br**

*Tony Burnell, 2021*

An old 'Lindsay Main' project from the mid 90's. From the ledge under the triangular roof clip Br1, swing up & R to a good hold, then stand on it before going straight up generally just R of the Brs to a common DBA.

*Somewhere to the R of 'BF' the wall was top roped in 1996 by Phil Stuart Jones but never equipped.*

**Sc Sirocco**

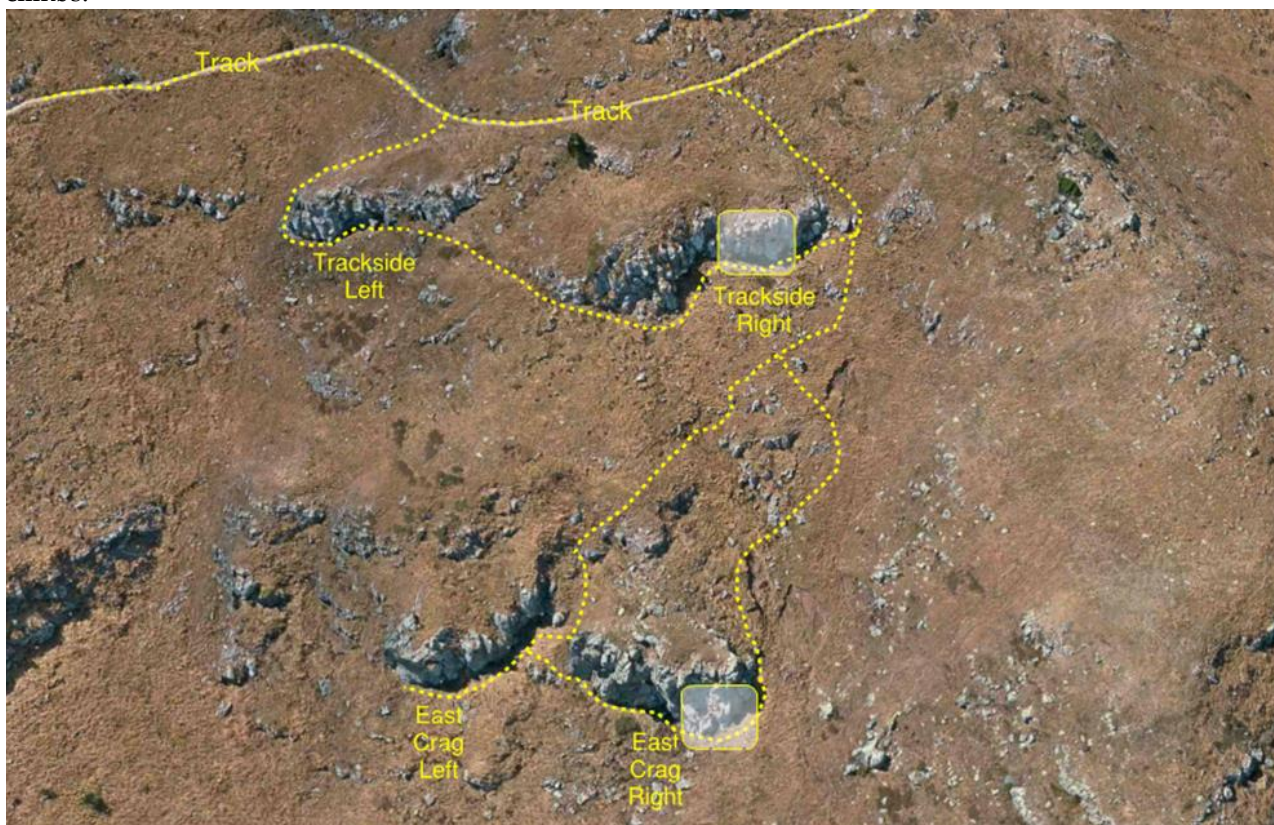
**20 S2 Tr 0Br**

*Lindsay Main, 1996*

This is a bit of a guess as to where this route goes but it is likely to surmount the roof pretty much as for 'BH', after pulling out onto the arete go R & follow a weakness, before going back L to the DBA on 'BH'.

## Eastern Crags

These are the farthest set of crags from the parking area. There is some obvious seismic damage at these crags (indicated below), what is not obvious is where rocks have pancaked or simply moved & become loose or unstable, be conscious of your own safety & that of others & take extreme care at the top of all climbs.



## East Crag L

The East Crags (L & R) are lower down the flank of the hill under the walking track. East Crag L has some good compact rock although the routes are shorter.

**LAr L Arete**

**10 S2 Tr 0Br**

*Phil Stuart-Jones (solo) '97*

The L hand arete of the L crag provides a short fun face climb with good gear.

**Pat Pate**

**20 S2 Tr 0Br**

*Joe Arts, 1996*

The flared chimney with loose blocks around the L side of the smooth slabby wall.

*A common DBA on top serves 'DRC' & 'RP'.*

**DRC Dirty Rotten Chicken Town**

**18 S3 Mp 1Br**

*Joe Arts, 1996*

The smooth wall to the R of the chimney, using the arete get up & out onto the wall with 1Br.

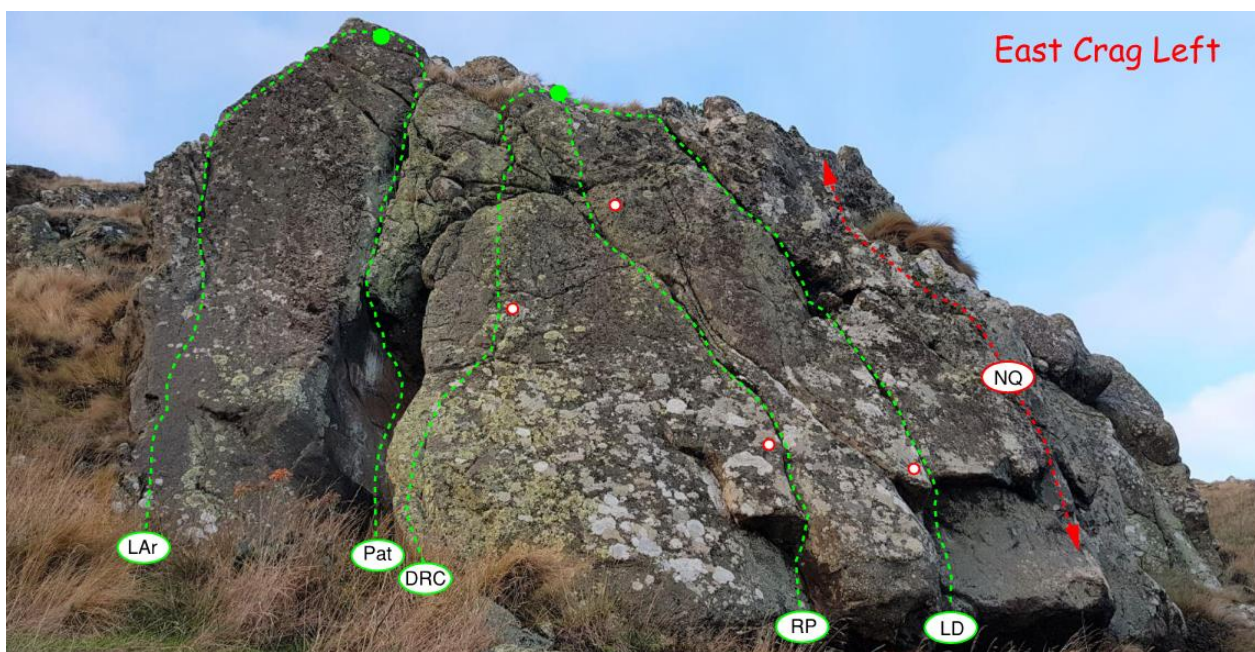
**RP Radical Proteins**

**21 S2 Mp 2Br**

*Joe Arts, 1996*

Start below the small triangular roof, go around R of the roof into the crack system, follow the crack past 2Br to a direct top out.

# Breeze Bay Crags:2022

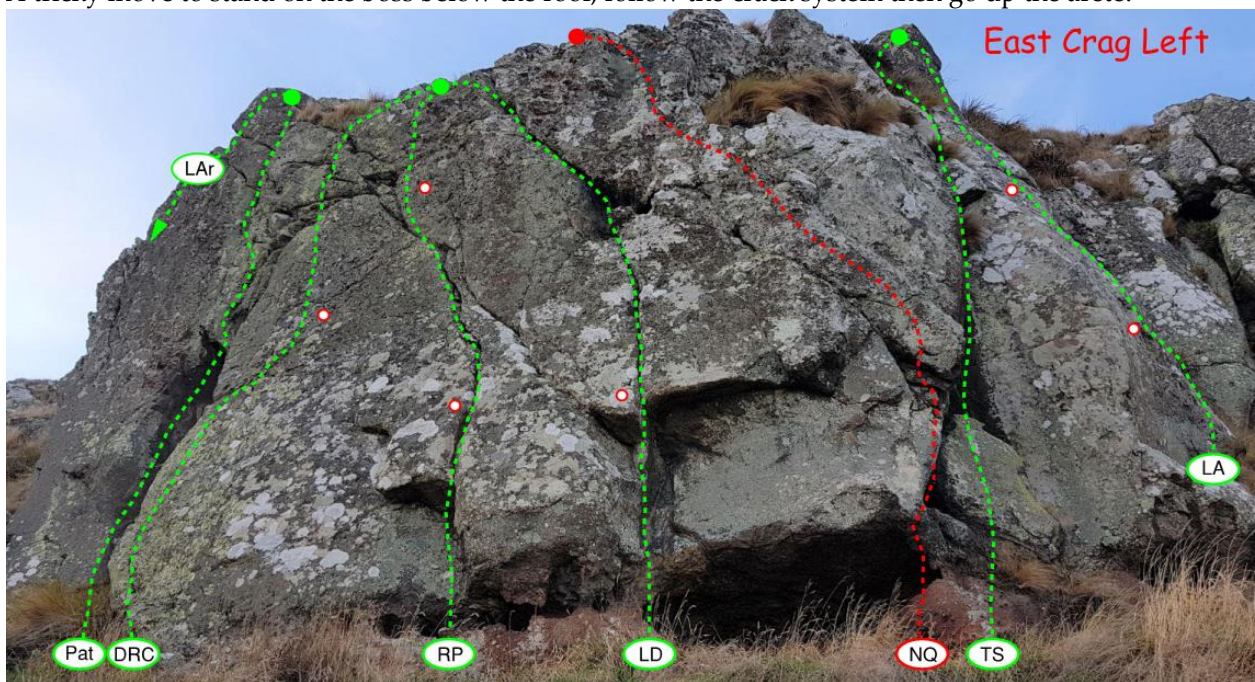


**LD** **Lame Duck** 22 S2 Mp 1Br *Joe Arts, 1996*

The second roof at the R side of the wall, undercut at the base, strenuous & devious to the hole, from here trend L & up the break.

**NQ** **Not Quite Foie Gras** 21 S1 Sp 4Br *Tony Burnell, 2022*

A tricky move to stand on the boss below the roof, follow the crack system then go up the arete.



There is a common DBA at the top of 'LA', this also serves for 'TS'.

**TS** **Tossed Salad** 19 S2 Tr 0Br *Joe Arts, 1996*

At the R side of the wall climb the curving wide crack.

**LA** **Lost Arrow** 17 S2 Mp 2Br *Joe Arts, 1996*

Climbs the laidback pinnacle to the R of the main buttress up the groove & onto the face with 2Br.

**PP** **Pin Pincher** 19 S2 Mp 2Br *Joe Arts, 1997*

The black L-facing corner, DBA out L at the top of the groove. Chain anchor on top.

## Breeze Bay Crags:2022



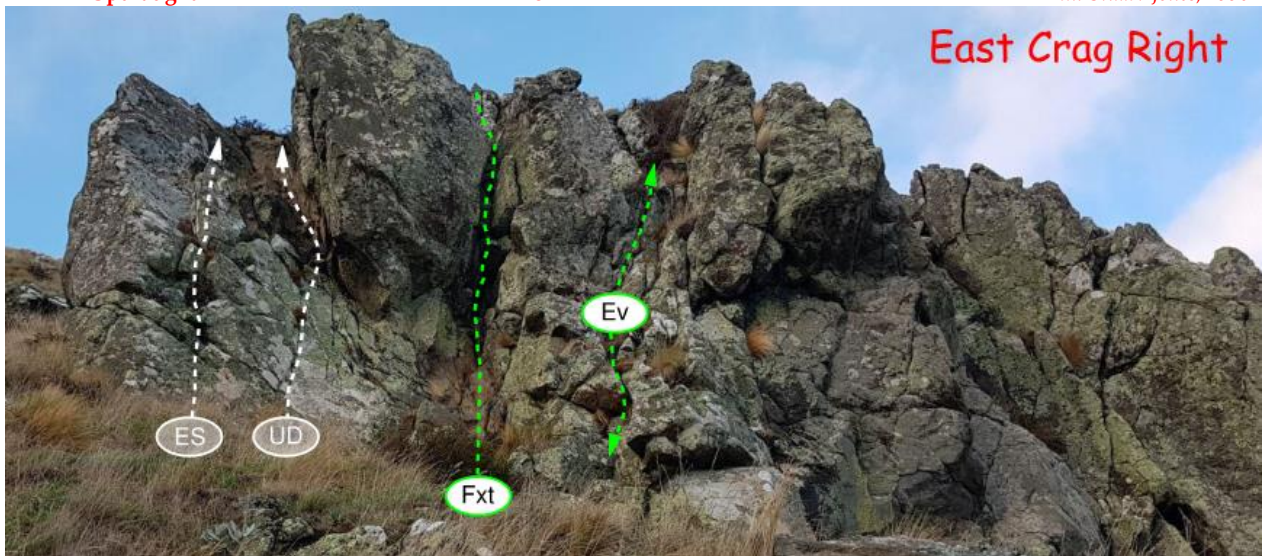
## East Crag R

*East Crag R* starts with a blank wall with cracks/chimneys & a prominent prow. The first two climbs are earthquake damaged & described in RED for completeness.

Evening Stroll  
Updraught

12  
15

*Phil Stuart-Jones, solo, 1996*  
*Phil Stuart-Jones, 1996*



<b>Fxt</b>	<b>Foxtrot</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>
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*Phil Stuart-Jones, solo, 1996*

The groove & chimney below & R of the prow, some minor damage is avoidable.

Ev	Eviction	8	S3	Tr	0Br
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*Phil Stuart-Jones, solo, 1996*

The vegetated steps leading diagonally R rightwards, could conceivably be climbed in several places.

# Breeze Bay Crags:2022



**MA Mustered Arms 17 S2 Tr 0Br**

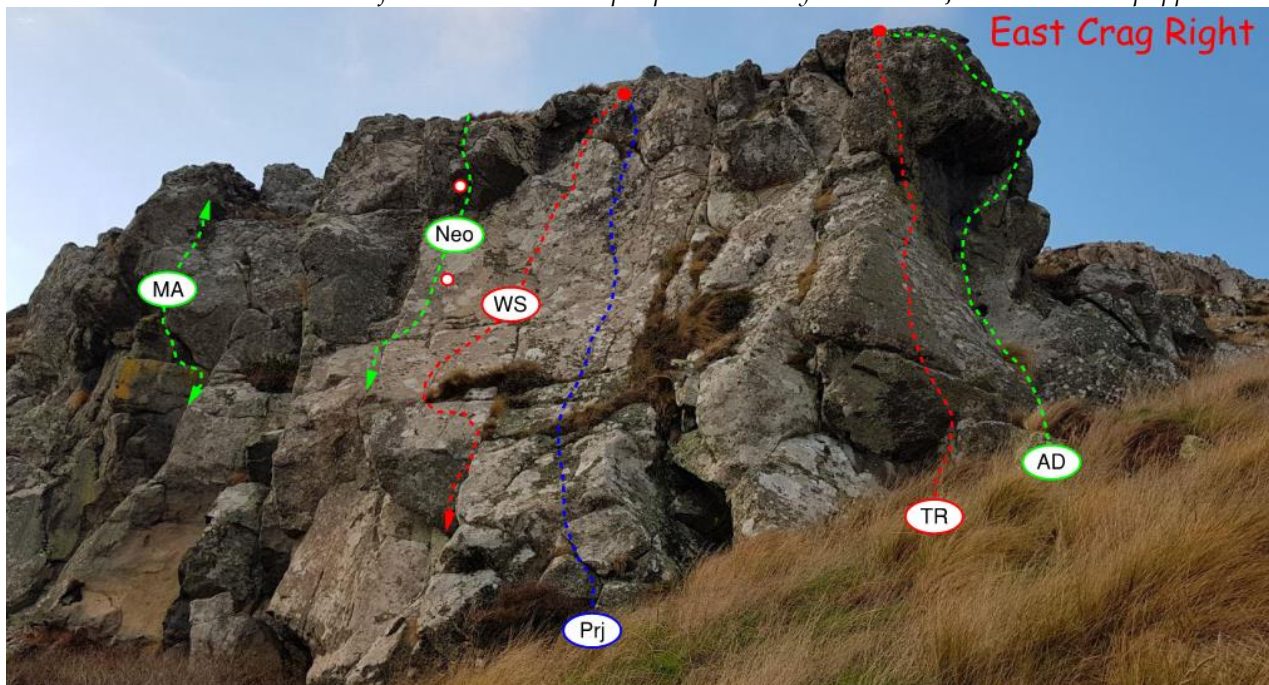
Climb the L side of the scar into a short corner, traverse L along the mustard-stained ledge & go up to a stance, from here follow around the ear to the final exit crack.

**GS Giant Slugs Ate My Fingers 16 S3 Tr 0Br**

*Phil Stuart-Jones, 1997*

Start in the groove R of the scar, bridge up to & around the roof to the & vegetation below the exit corner cracks.

*The weakness in the wall to the R of 'GS' the wall was top roped in 1996 by Phil Stuart Jones but never equipped*



**Dec Deception 18 S2 Mp 2Br**

*Phil Stuart-Jones, 1996*

The prominent leaning corner groove. The original guide refers to single bolt belay but there is no evidence of one.

**Neo Neopolitan 19 S2 Mp 2Br**

*Phil Stuart-Jones, 1996*

Named for its three flavours. Start below the prominent arete with the hanging prow, chimney up & swing around L up to the horizontal break. Follow the L arete past 2Br & a steep exit. The original guide refers to single bolt belay but there is no evidence of one.

# Breeze Bay Crags:2022

**WS White Slipper** 21 S1 Sp 5Br Tony Burnell, June 2021

Start in a capped groove R of the start of 'Neo', climb the corner, swing out R then go back L towards the arete to avoid the grass, from here go straight up the wall to anchors up & R of the top of 'Neo'.

**Prj Project Simon Courtois** 5Br Equipped Simon C, June 2021

Closed project

**TR Traction Reaction** 22 S1 Sp 4Br Tony Burnell, June 2021

Start at the very R end of the crag & climbs the slab the L of 'AD', stay on the arete at the top with a move L then back R to finish.

**AD After Dark** 14 S3 Tr 0Br Phil Stuart-Jones, solo, 1996

Up the corner with the tussock following the natural bulging crack-line, exit up & R going back L to anchor of 'TR'.

## Trackside Crags

'Trackside L' & 'Trackside R' comprise 2 small buttresses, there several obvious lines but no recorded climbs.

Trackside Left



Trackside Right

