

# HUNTSBURY CRAG

Port Hills Climbing

**Huntsbury Spur Crag**

Rev. A

Tony Burnell & Simon Courtois (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 Crags are home to rare species of geckos & native flora & fauna take care not to disturb wildlife or damage native plants.**

The climbing area is located on the western side of Huntsbury Spur below Huntsbury Ave & overlooking Bowenvale Park, the crag gets good afternoon sun & is reasonably sheltered from the easterly breeze however the rock is not the best & the crag did suffer a good deal of seismic damage. The climbing is generally in the lower grades & there are quite a few protection bolts.

Original route development was by Joe Arts & Adrienne McLeod in 1996/97 closely followed by Alan Hill, Hamish Reid, Tony Billing & Lindsay Main., since this activity there were a couple of additions in 2005 by Alan Hill & Hamish Castle, Justin Hall in 2018. This is not the best crag on the Port Hills but does have the odd good route Christchurch Hospital being one example.

## 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 the point at which you arrive at the crag i.e. 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

YELLOW

Sport routes are marked in

RED

Variations are marked in

PINK

Trad or mixed protection climbs are marked in

GREEN

Projects are marked in

BLUE

Seismically Damaged climbs are marked in

WHITE

**The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used**

Sp - Denotes Sport Route.

R & L - Denote R & L.

Tr - Denotes Trad Route.

DBA - Denotes anchor station/lower off point

Mp - Mixed Protection Route (bolts & trad).

#Br - Denotes the number of bolt 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.

S1 - A straight forward climb with good protection & a low risk of injury from a fall.

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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.

## Access & Restrictions

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

**Permission: None required**

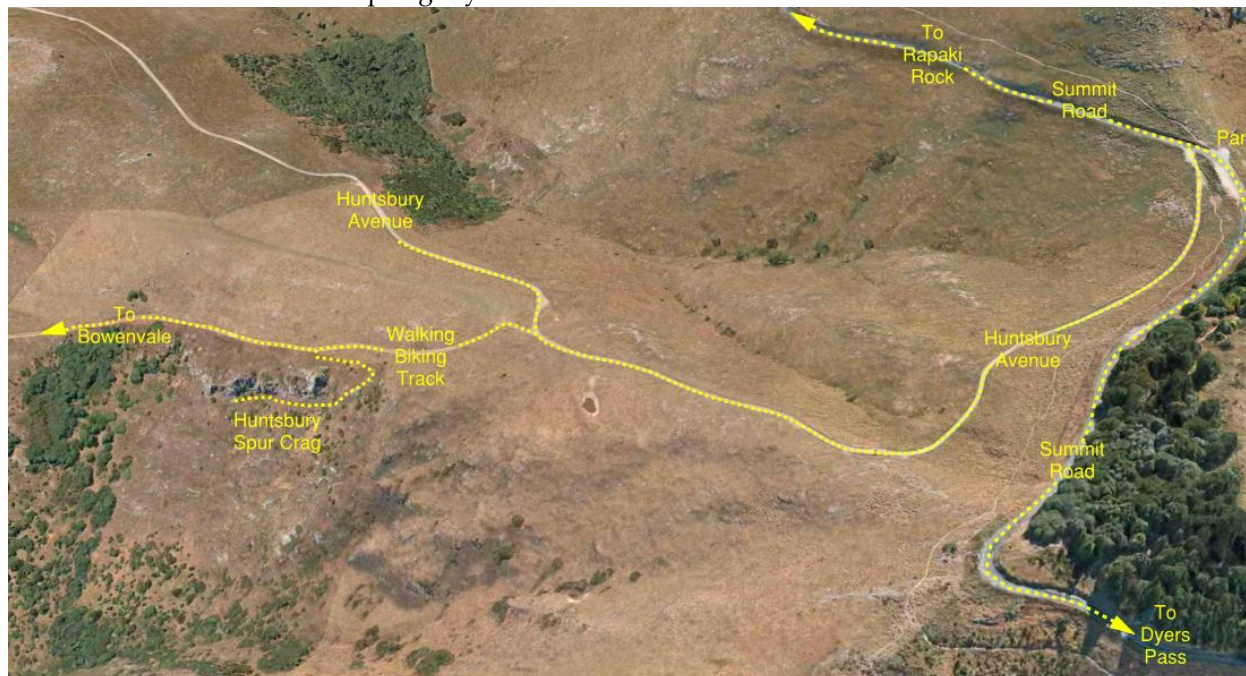
**GPS:** -43.591370, 172.659499

**Distance:** 900mts

**Walk Time:** 15mins

**Ownership:** CCC Land

There is limited parking on the Summit Road at the junction with Huntsbury Avenue. From the Summit Rd head down Huntsbury Ave until the walking/cycle track veers of left, follow the track for about 150mts then cut down the hill via an open gully to the southern end of the cliff.



## Climbing



**Crumbs**

**14**

**S3**

**Tr**

**0Br**

**Tony Billings, 1997**

This climb collapsed in the 2020/11 earthquakes

**LB Leaf Blower**

**14**

**S2**

**Mp**

**3Br**

**H Castle, J Hall, 2018**

*Not shown on a topo.* This is a poor climb on poor rock & is not recommended, the climb weaves its way up the arete at the base of the descent gully, there is no anchor.

*Moving downhill contour under the crumbly wall L of the arete, the first good bit of rock is quite short & has a brownish tint. The wall has two leaning corners on the R side, these are Un1 & Un2.*





**Un1 Unnamed Route 1 15 2Br** *Joe Arts, 2016 ?*

Climbs the short groove & wall at the R side of the buttress heading L across the grass ledge to a chain anchor.

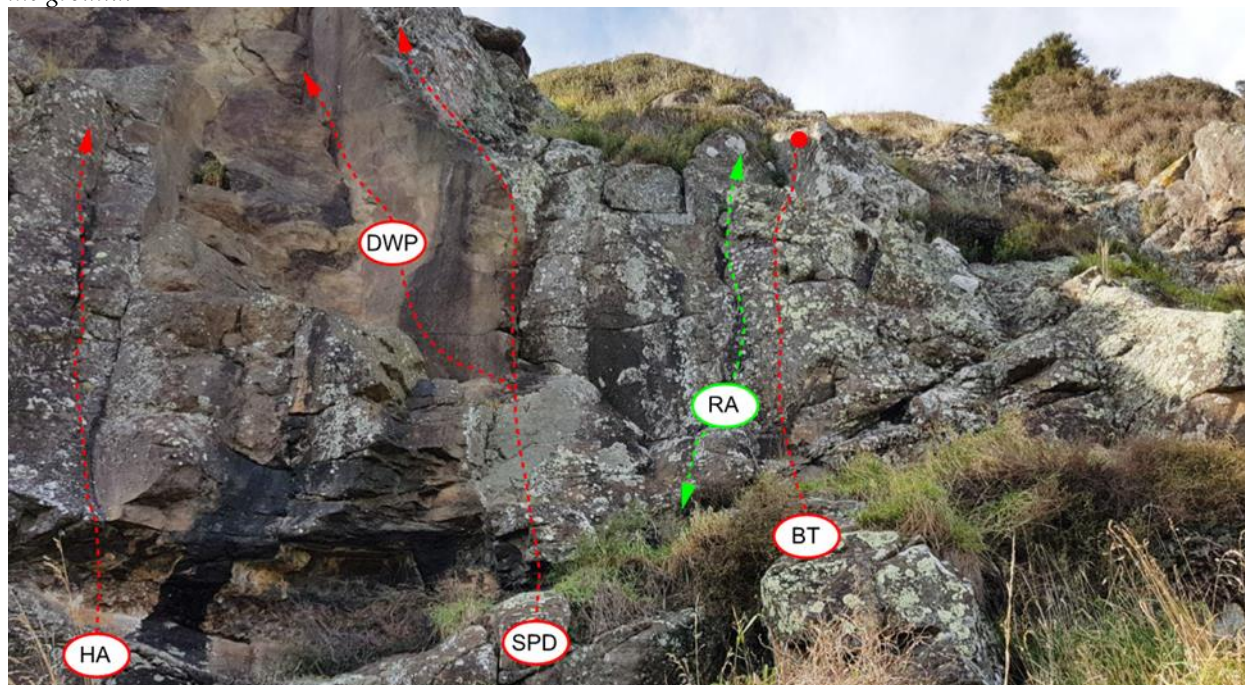
**Un2 Unnamed Route 2 15 2Br** *Joe Arts, 2016 ?*

Climbs the second groove & wall & goes pretty much straight to the chain anchor.

**LS Look-see 16 3Br** *Joe Arts, 1997*

The main feature of the wall is the steeper featured brown wall, follow up the bulbous features to a chain anchor around to the R.

*Approximately 10 mts further north is quite a large earthquake scar that forms an open corner about 2.5 mts above the ground.*



**BT Broken Turbine 15 2Br** *Joe Arts, 1997*

Located on the small buttress to the R of the scar, from the ledge climb the wall to the open corner at the top, anchor chain on the R wall.



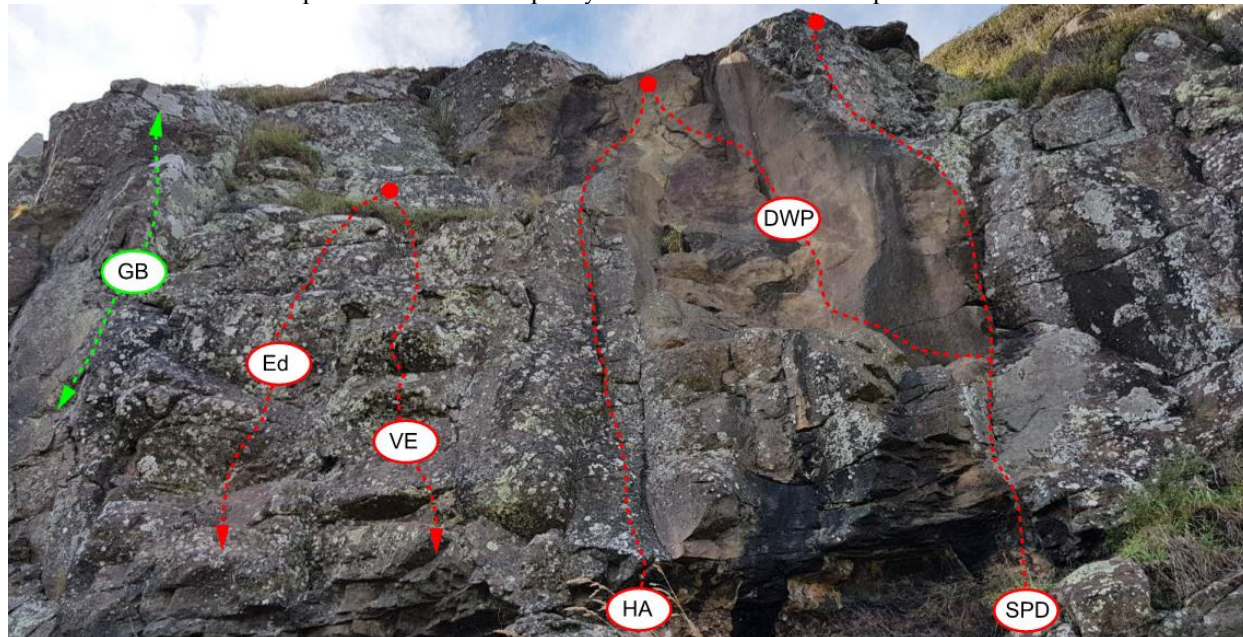
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**RA Road Access** 13 S3 Mp 1Br Joe Arts, 1996

The easy looking corner to the L of 'BT', at the top move R to the anchor of 'BT'.

**SPD South Power Direct** 12 S2 Sp 3Br Joe Arts, 1996/2016

Climbs the R side of the quake scar onto the pinky white slab that trend up & R to the anchor.



**DWP The Dominion Workers Party** 12 S1 Sp 5Br Joe Arts, 2016

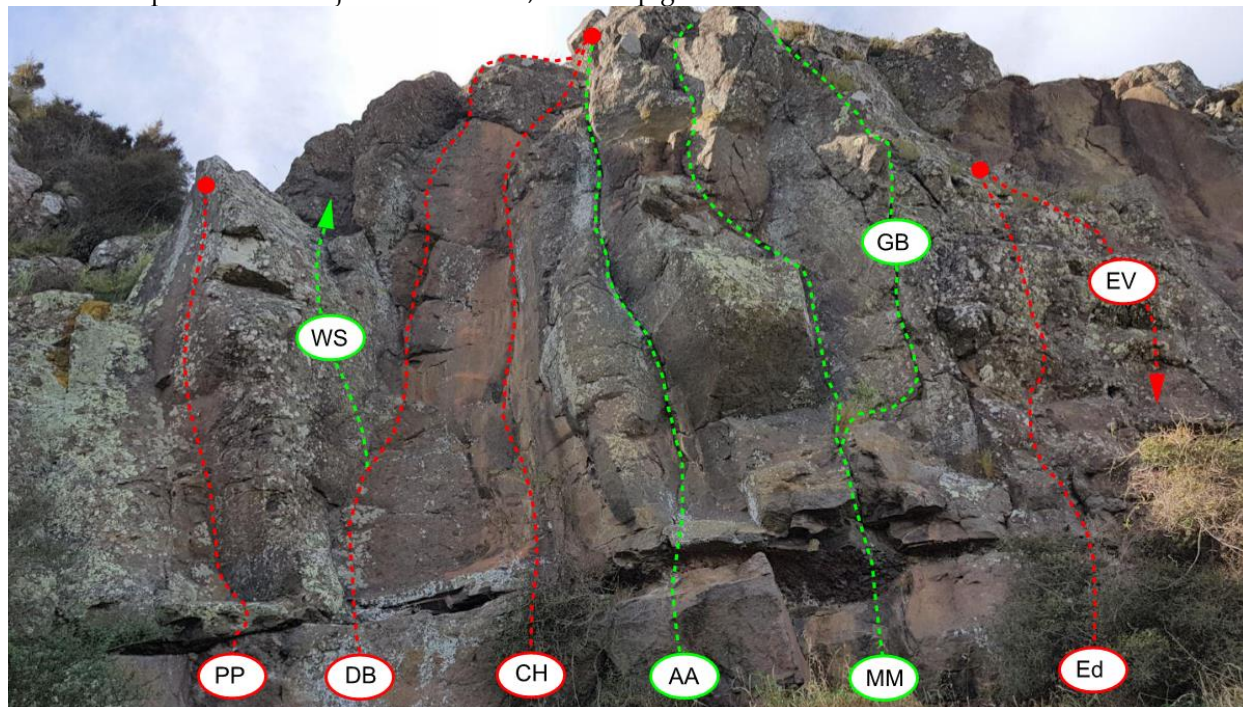
Start as for 'SPD' but follow the easiest line through the scar to anchors.

**PS Pooper Scooper** 12 S1 Sp 5Br Joe Arts, 2016

Looks like this route has collapsed during the 2010/11 quakes

**HA Huntsbury Ave** 19 S1 Sp 4Br Joe Arts, 1996

Follows the parallel feature just L of the scar, at the top go R to the anchor.



The next 2 lines climb the short compact wall, with bulbous features, to a joint anchor in the grassy bay

**VE Variation of Edna** 17 S2 Sp 2Br Adrienne McLeod, 1996

Start on the of the undercut & make your way up & L onto the wall, straight up to finish.



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**Ed Edna** 18 S1 Sp 4Br *Adrienne McLeod, 1996*

Good climbing up the wall just L of centre.

*Moving L around the arete you come to the some of the best climbs at Huntsbury.*

**GB The Go Betweens** 22 S3 Mp 1Br *Joe Arts, 1997*

Start as for 'MM', after Br1 move R into the crack system, follow this & exit up & L up the arete.

**MM Macrae's Mining** 19 S2 Sp 4Br *Joe Arts, 1996*

Climb over the small roof & up the R side of the nose. Above here veer around L following the weakness to chains out R.

**AA Albatross Arms** 21 S2 Mp 2Br *Joe Arts, 1996*

Follow the leaning groove on the L side of the nose.

**CH Coronation Hospital** 21 S1 Sp 5Br *Joe Arts, 1996*

A great line, climb the R side of the brown groove.

**DR Dry Brush Road** 17 S2 Mp 5Br *Adrienne McLeod, 1996*

Another good line, climb the L side of the brown groove.

**WS Whistle Stop Arete** 20 S3 Mp 2Br *Alan Hill, 1997*

Starts as for 'DB' then follows the dirty green slab on the L. Use 2Br on 'DB' at the start.

**PP The Price of Progress** 17 S3 Mp 1Br *Joe Arts, 1996*

A good little climb on the L side of the steep arete use the groove, anchors at the top of the wall.

*Around to the L is an easy scramble up grass & ledges that leads to the top of the crag on the L is the tall buttress of Killing Moon.*



**LJ I'm a Lumberjack** 14 S3 Mp 1Br *Alan Hill, 2005*

Worth doing, I'll let you decide. Clip the first bolt on Killing Moon and move right and climb the crack

**KM Killing Moon** 23 S3 Mp 2Br *Joe Arts 1996*

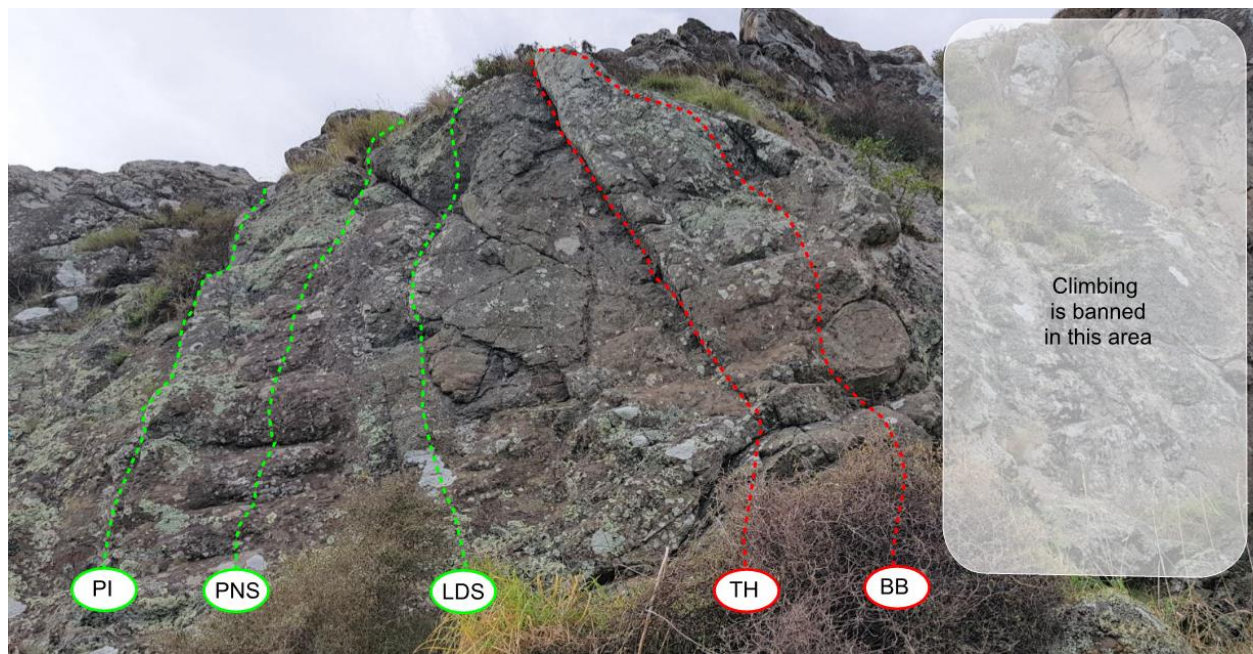
The slab climb moves onto a steep headwall with a groove to assist topping out.

*Climbing on the area of rock between Interflora & Bolt from the Blue was banned in 1998, this area has now been extended & excludes all routes between Killing Moon & Bolt from the Blue. Interflora partially collapsed during the 2010/11 earthquakes. Not climbing in this area will allow regeneration of native plants & the banned routes are no great loss to the area; the information is recorded here for posterity & to advise that these lines have been previously climbed.*

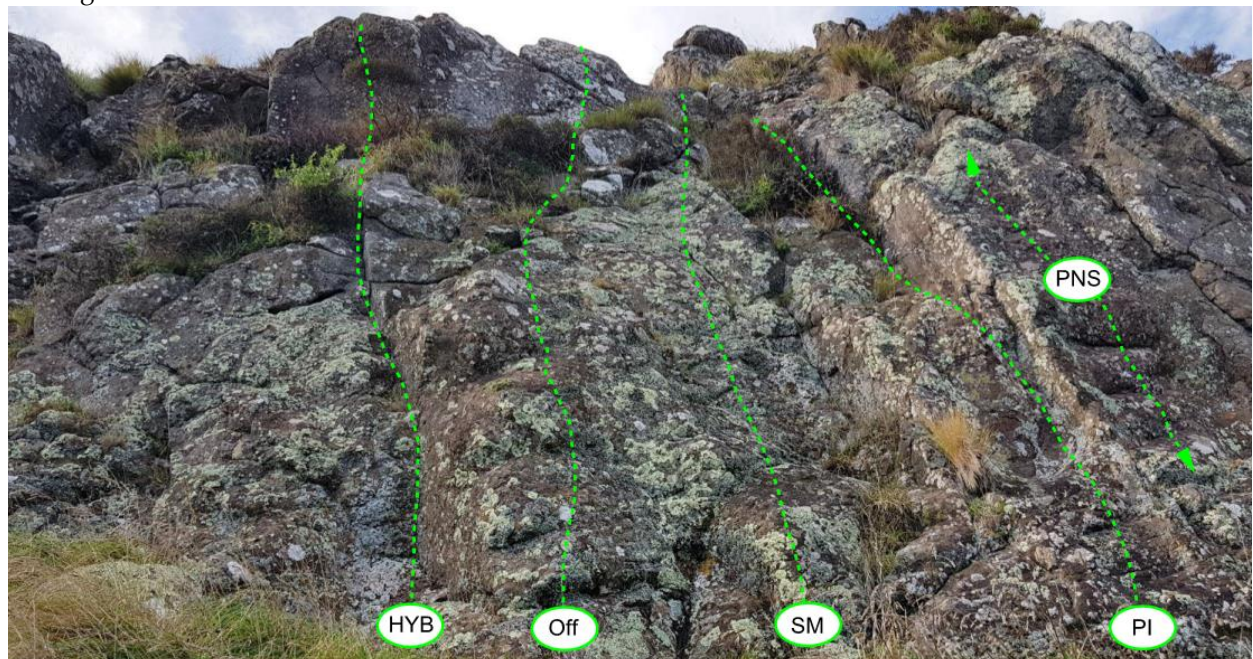
**Int Interflora - BANNED** 18 *Alan Hill, 1997*

**BTR Brown Trout Rising - Banned** 18 *Alan Hill, 1997*





- BB Bolt from the Blue** 15 S2 Sp 3Br *Alan Hill, 1997*  
 Circumvent the porthole like feature approximately 2mts above the ground, straight up then follow the L trending green arete.
- TH Thermalling Hawks** 17 S2 Sp 3Br *Adrienne McLeod, 1997*  
 Good climbing up the L leaning groove moving L to chains at the top.
- LDS Lazy Days of Summer** 16 S3 Mp 1Br *Adrienne McLeod, 1997*  
 Climbs the L side of the vague diamond shaped shield at 3mts, exit straight up the steeper rock & move L to the anchors.
- PNS Pack'n'Save** 15 S3 Mp 1Br *Adrienne McLeod, 1997*  
 Climb the slabby bulbous feature past a Br to get to the top of the diagonal crack on the R.
- PI Pack it in** 12 S3 Tr 0Br *Joe Arts, 1997*  
 The groove/arete L of 'PNS', the route goes to the top but it's best to move R to the anchor of 'PNS, when the angle backs off.







**SM Scullery Maid** 11 S3 Tr 0Br *Joe Arts, 1997*

The easy angled dirty slab, originally soloed.

**Off Offsider** 14 S3 Tr 0Br *Hamish Reid, 1997*

Climbs wall just in from the L arete, at the top fo the slab pick the easiest way through the vegetation to the top of the crag.

**HYB Hedge Your Bets** 15 S3 Tr 0Br *Alan Hill, 1997*

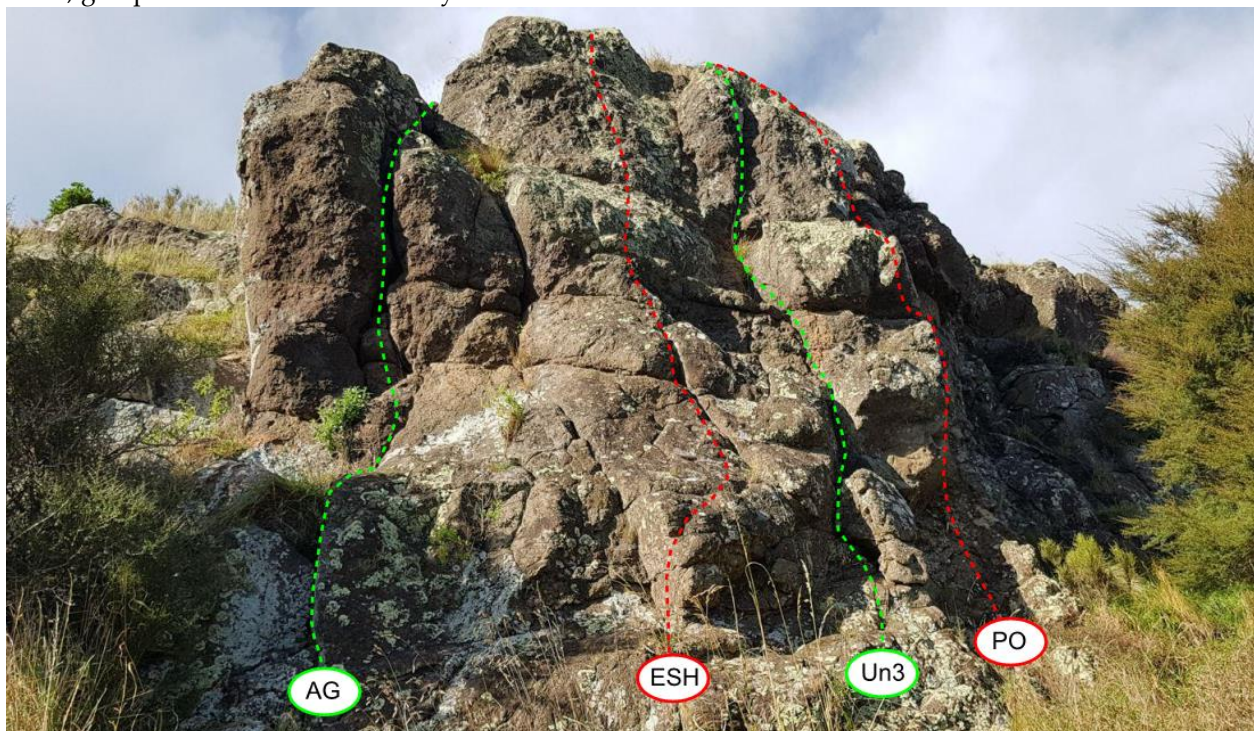
A dirty climb up the corner system & through the vegetated ledge to an exit crack.

**Ino Innovation** 19 S3 Tr 0Br *Joe Arts, 1997*

On the R is a continuous line of rock with a rounded roof at the top, follow the easiest line to the roof & surmount it in its centre.

**SB Scraping the Barrel** 16 S3 Tr 0Br *Alan Hill, 1997*

The name says it all really, start just L of 'Ino', bridge up the shallow, green, lichenous groove, to a ledge out L, go up & R into the exit chimney.





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*This is the last climbing area, located at the town end of the crag the rock is compact though short.*

**PO Photo Opportunity 14 S3 Sp 2Br** *Adrienne McLeod, 1997*

Climbs the arete, starting on the R side, head up & over a couple of bulges before going up & L to anchors.

**Un3 Unnamed Route 3 12 S2 Mp 2Br** *Joe Arts, 2016*

The groove system exiting up the grooves at the top.

**ESH Everyone Should Have a Hobby 11 S3 Tr 3Br** *Lindsay Main, 1997*

The central slabby face getting steeper towards the top.

**After the Gold Rush 17 S3 Tr 0Br** *Lindsay Main, 1997*

The jam crack at the L end of the crag.