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**Port Hills Climbing**

**Paraglider Point**

**Tony Burnell  
Rev. A (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. With one exception all climbs at Paraglider Point were developed by Simon Courtois & Dave Shotwell. The access is now via a long walk since the Summit Road closures, the crag was never high on many peoples list of places to go. The crag at first glance resembles a stack of weetbix on top of some rocky road. The majority of the original bolts are galvanised & showing signs of corrosion.

## Access & Restrictions

**Paraglider Point is located in Whakarupo Reserve overlooking Cass Bay in Lyttelton Harbour.**

**Restrictions: Dogs not allowed**

**Permission: None required**

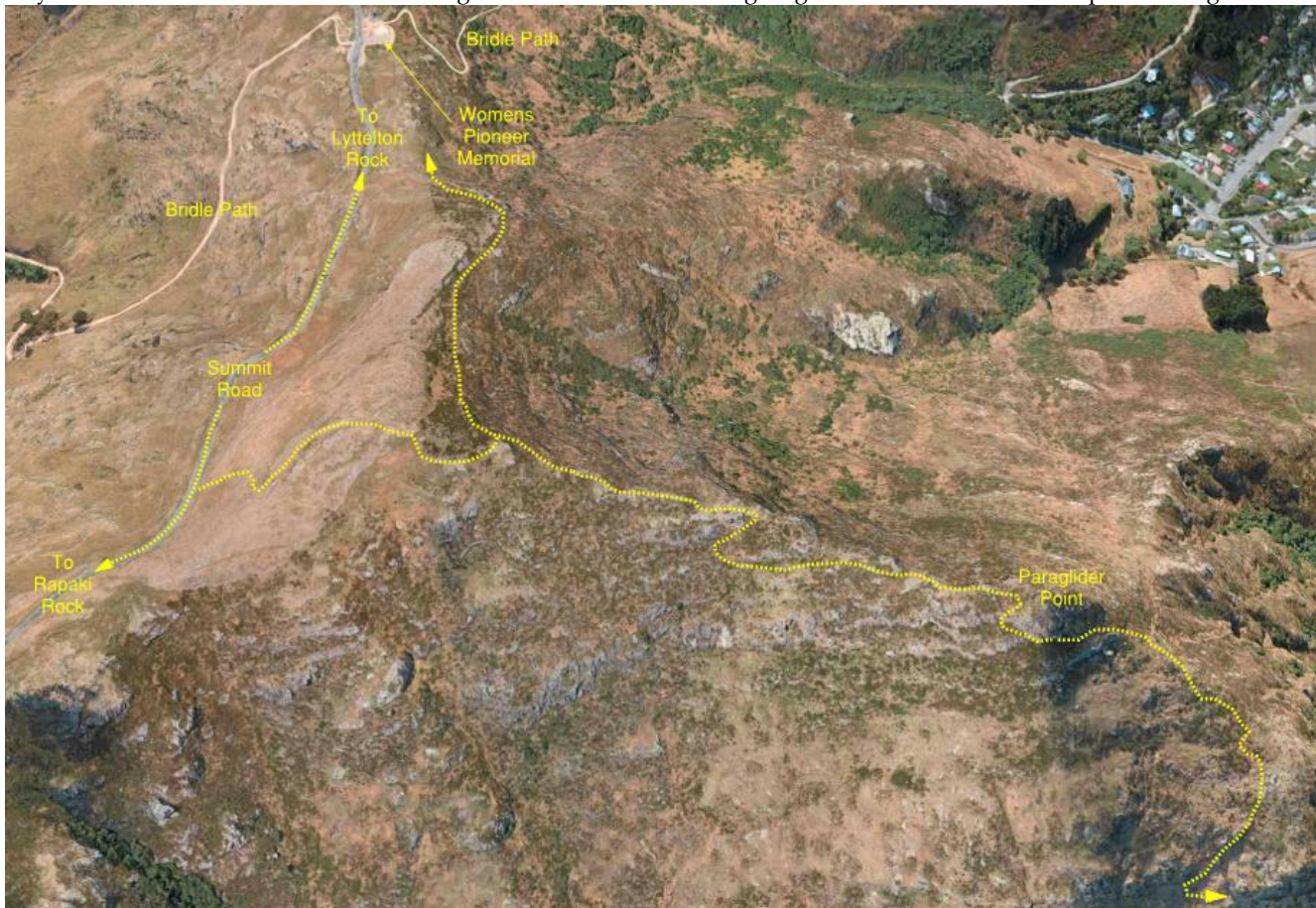
**GPS: -43.600107, 172.699230**

**Distance: 3200mts**

**Walk Time: 60mins**

**Ownership: Council**

Paraglider Point is located on the south side Summit Road approximately 3.0km from the parking at barrier at Lyttelton Rock. From the parking walk along the road to the Womens Pioneer Memorial (1.25km) at the intersection of the Bridlepath & the Summit Road. Paraglider Point is located in Whakarupo Reserve on a promontory overlooking Cass Bay & TSS Steadfast. From the Womens Pioneer Memorial either continue along the road or follow the Crater Rim Walkway to get to the ridgeline from here follow a vague track along the ridge to a flat saddle before the last high point approximately from here weave your way down the western flank before heading back out to the descending ridge line which leads to the top of the crag.



## Climbing Notes

**Warning - Rock 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.

The majority of climbing requires trad placements & the insitu gear isnt as good as one would like.

Tracks are marked in

**YELLOW**

Trad or mixed protection climbs are marked in

**GREEN**

Sport climbs are marked in

**RED**



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As far as possible all known routes have been included in this guide. If you want to know where a route goes read the text as well as looking at the topos, topos & descriptions for this crag are in a L to R order

The following abbreviations / definitions have been used

#Br – Denotes number of bolt runners

Tr – Denotes Trad Route

So – Denotes solo route unprotected

Mp – Denotes mixed protection climb

Sp – Denotes Sport climb

R & L – Denote Right & Left

## Grading

Grades here assume climbing on sight placing the gear.

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

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.

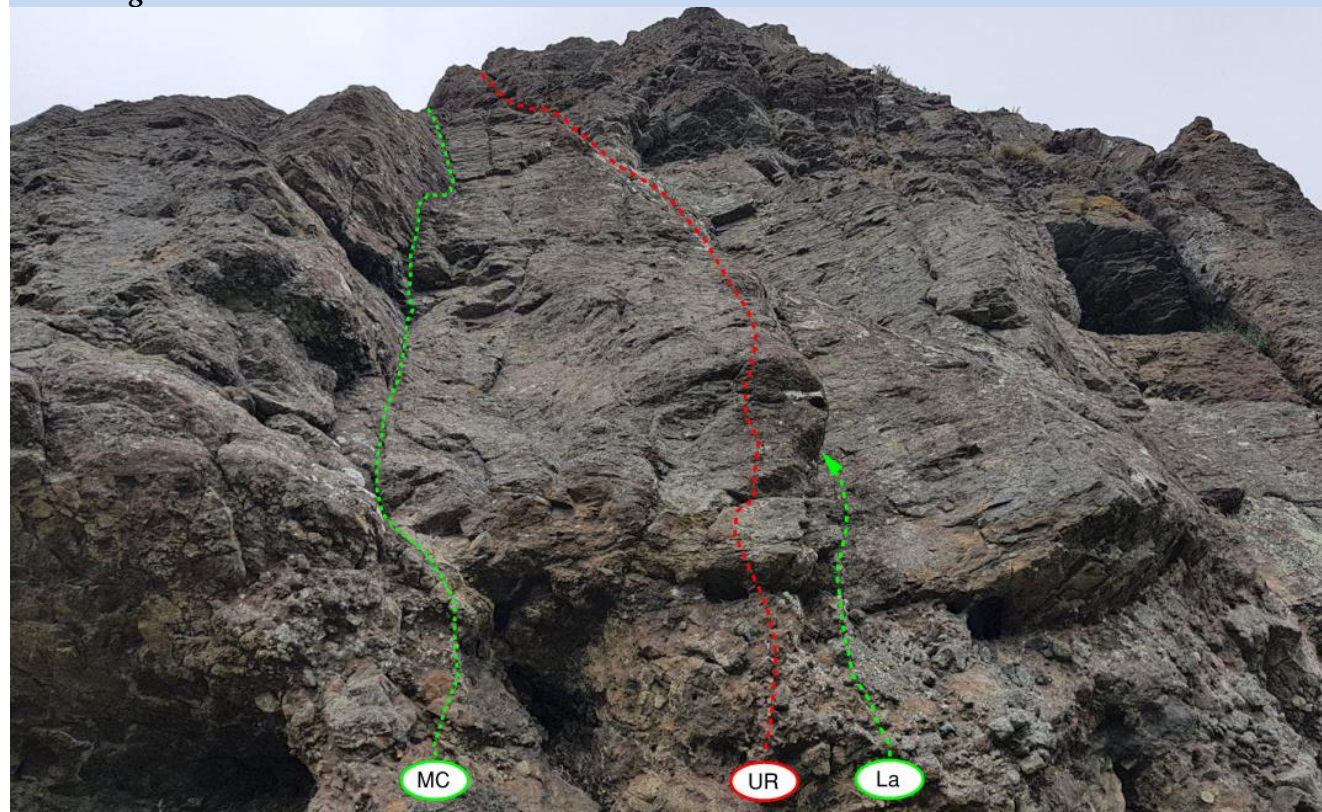
- S1 - A straight forward climb with good protection & a low risk of injury from a fall
- S2 - Reasonable protection, but a fall could result in injury
- S3 - Protection is marginal or non-existent & a fall could result in serious injury

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

There is evidence of seismic damage across the hillside on the approach, though the crag is in reasonable shape.

*All rock should be treated as suspect*

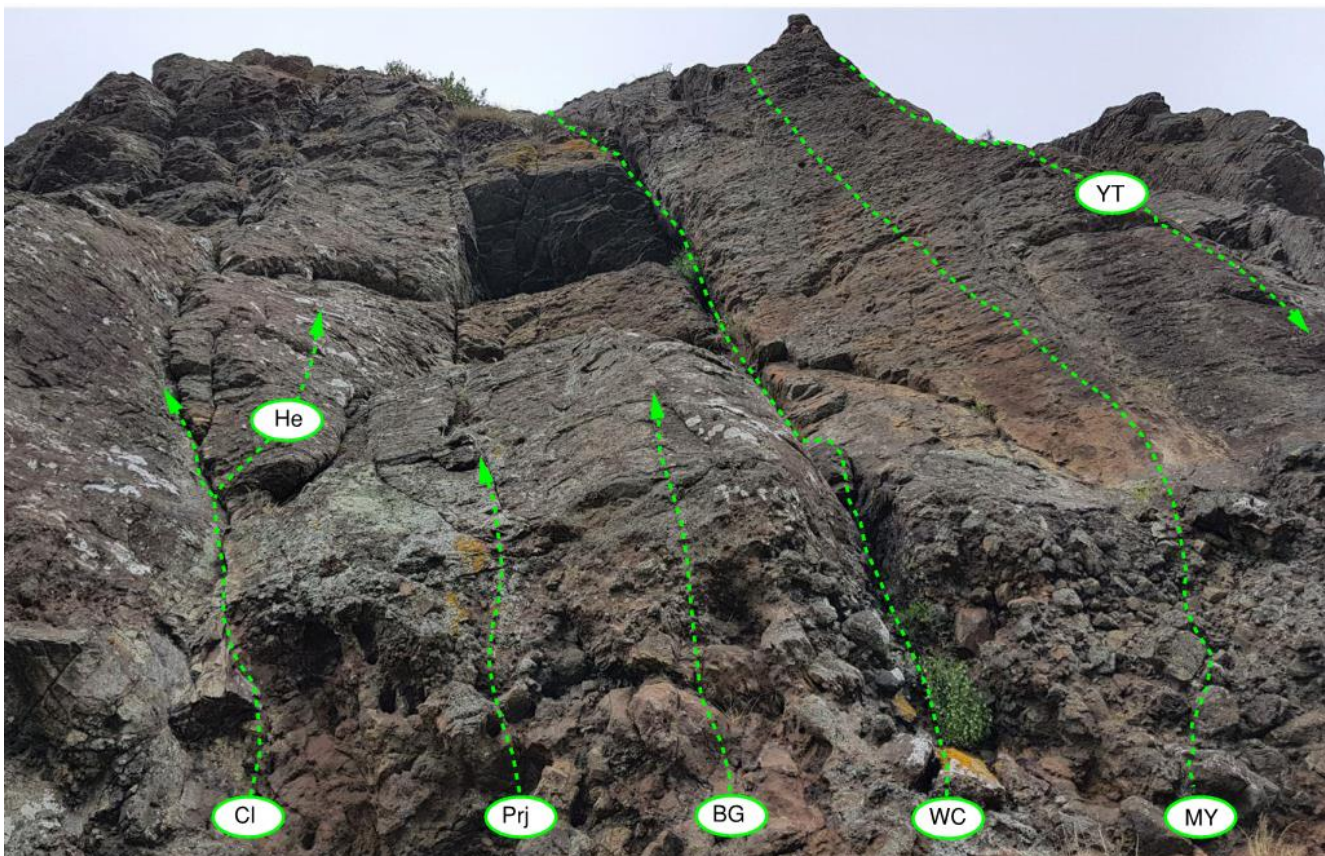
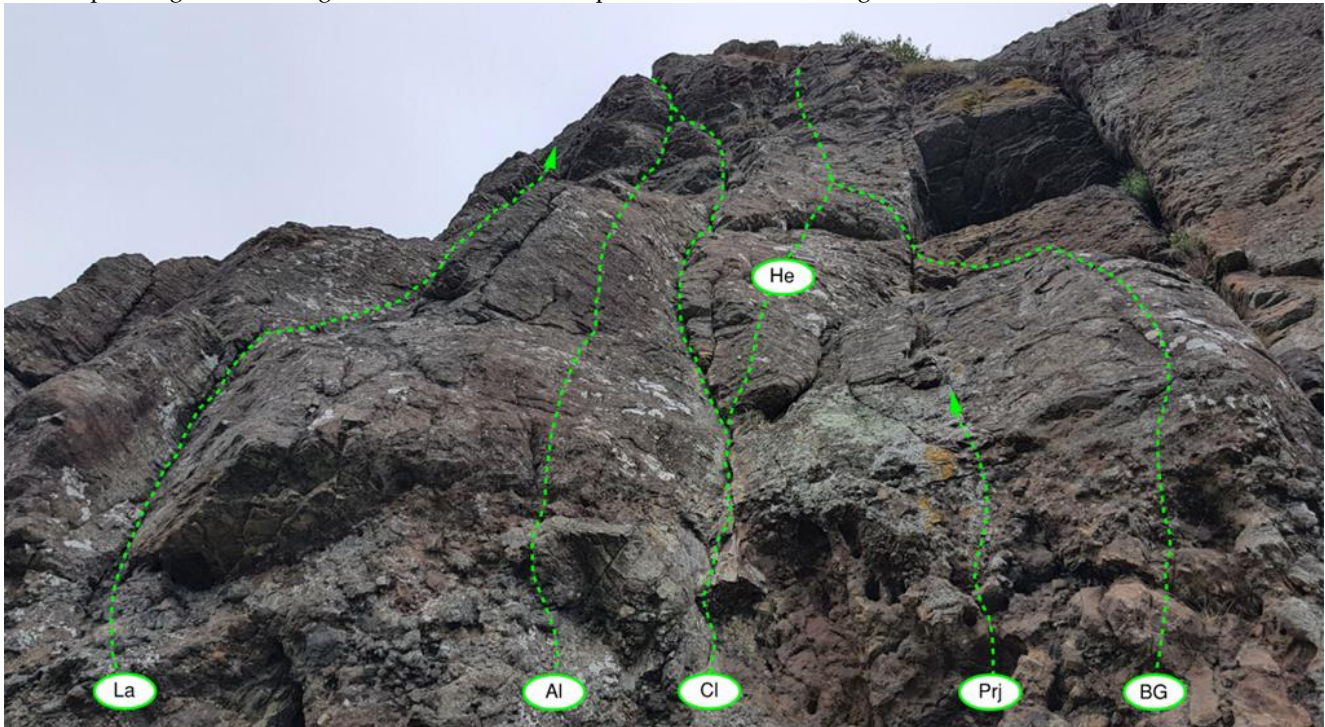
## Climbing



<b>MC</b>	<b>Mission Creep</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>Mp</b>	<b>2Br</b>	<i>Lindsay Main, 1998</i>
Takes the undercut R facing corner, starting on the R, head up the leaning pillar & into a corner bridge up & exit R						
<b>UR</b>	<b>Up-rising</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>S1</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>7Br</b>	<i>Dave Shotwell, 1998</i>
Powerful climbing up the L side of the overhanging, arete, exit up the slab on the R.						
<b>La</b>	<b>Larry</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>	<i>Simon Courtois, 1996</i>
The second of the three corner/crack systems, start on the R & move L on loose looking knobs.						
<b>Al</b>	<b>Alibi</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>Mp</b>	<b>3Br</b>	<i>Dave Shotwell, 1998</i>



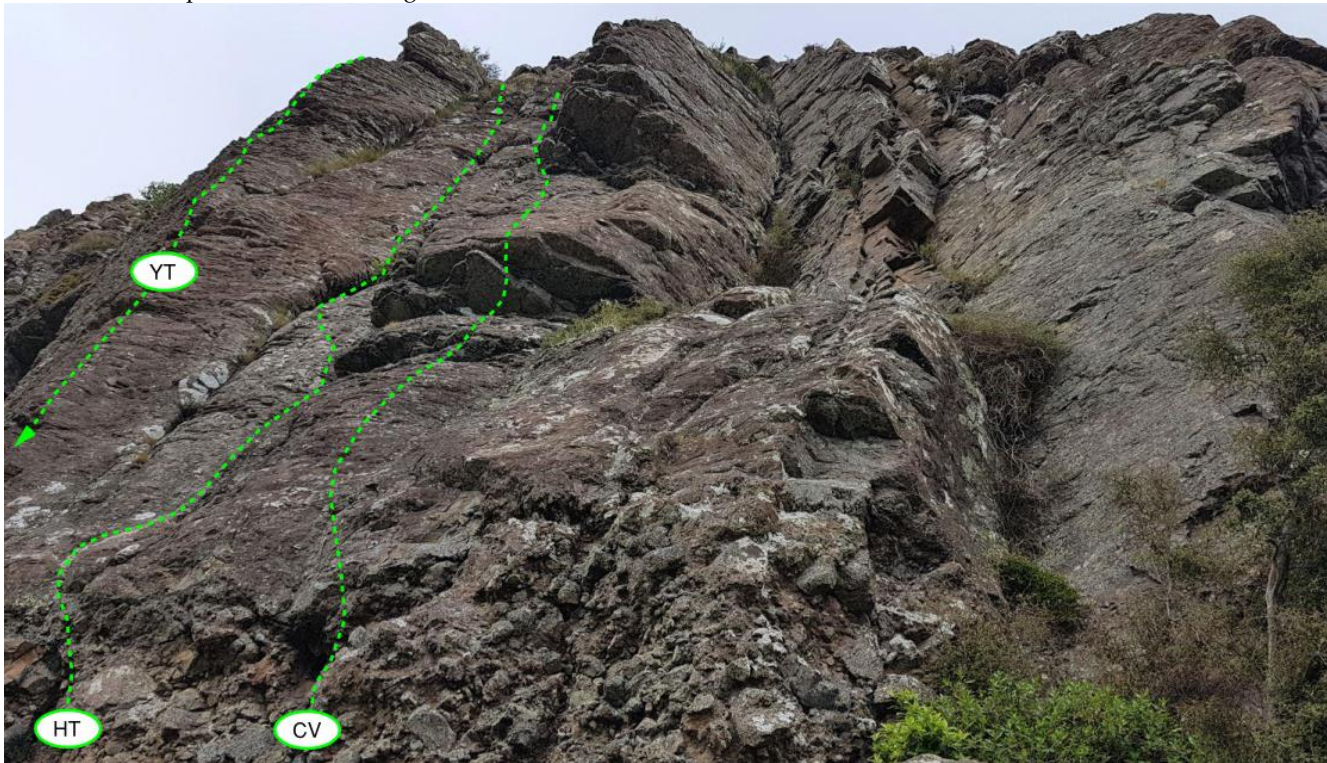
Climb up through a small bulge onto a slab then head up the wall above avoiding the crack on the R



<b>Cl</b>	<b>Curly</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>	<i>Dave Shotwell, 1998</i>
The L leaning crack on natural pro.						
<b>He</b>	<b>Heinous19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>Mp</b>	<b>3Br</b>	<i>Simon Courtois, 1998</i>
Start as for 'Cl' but go into the crack on the R then go up the wall past the detached pillar						
<b>Prj</b>	<b>Old Project</b>				<b>1Br</b>	
<b>BG</b>	<b>Bob Gnarly Arete</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>5Br</b>	<i>Simon Courtois, 1996</i>
Climbs the bulge 3mts up past 3Br after Br4 go L to join 'He' at its 2 <sup>nd</sup> Br						



<b>Bb</b>	<b>Bulbous</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>4Br</b>	<i>Simon Courtois, 1998</i>
<i>Not Shown on Topos</i> - Climb 'BG' past 3Br to finish at a 4 <sup>th</sup> Br under the main roof						
<b>WC</b>	<b>Who's Crying Now Punter?</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>	<i>Simon Courtois, 1996</i>
The wide crack up the R side of the big roof						



<b>MY</b>	<b>Main E Yank</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>Mp</b>	<b>6Br</b>	<i>Simon Courtois, 1998</i>
Hard face climbing R of 'WC', natural pro at start & finish						
<b>YT</b>	<b>Yank on This</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>Mp</b>	<b>7Br</b>	<i>Simon Courtois, 1998</i>
Good face climbing on the main arete of the crag.						
<b>HT</b>	<b>The Heaphy Track</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>S3</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>0Br</b>	<i>Simon Courtois, 1998</i>
The R of 2 crack lines, go through a bulge to gain the crack step L to pass the triangular roof & exit via the centre crack going L to the anchors of 'YT'						
<b>CV</b>	<b>Calissi-Vanissi</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>Sp</b>	<b>6Br</b>	<i>Dave Shotwell, 1998</i>
At the R side of the crag is a roof quite high up, head up the broken crack, clip Br3 above a small roof & continue up the slab to the large roof, skirt this L at grade 19, or more difficult on the R						