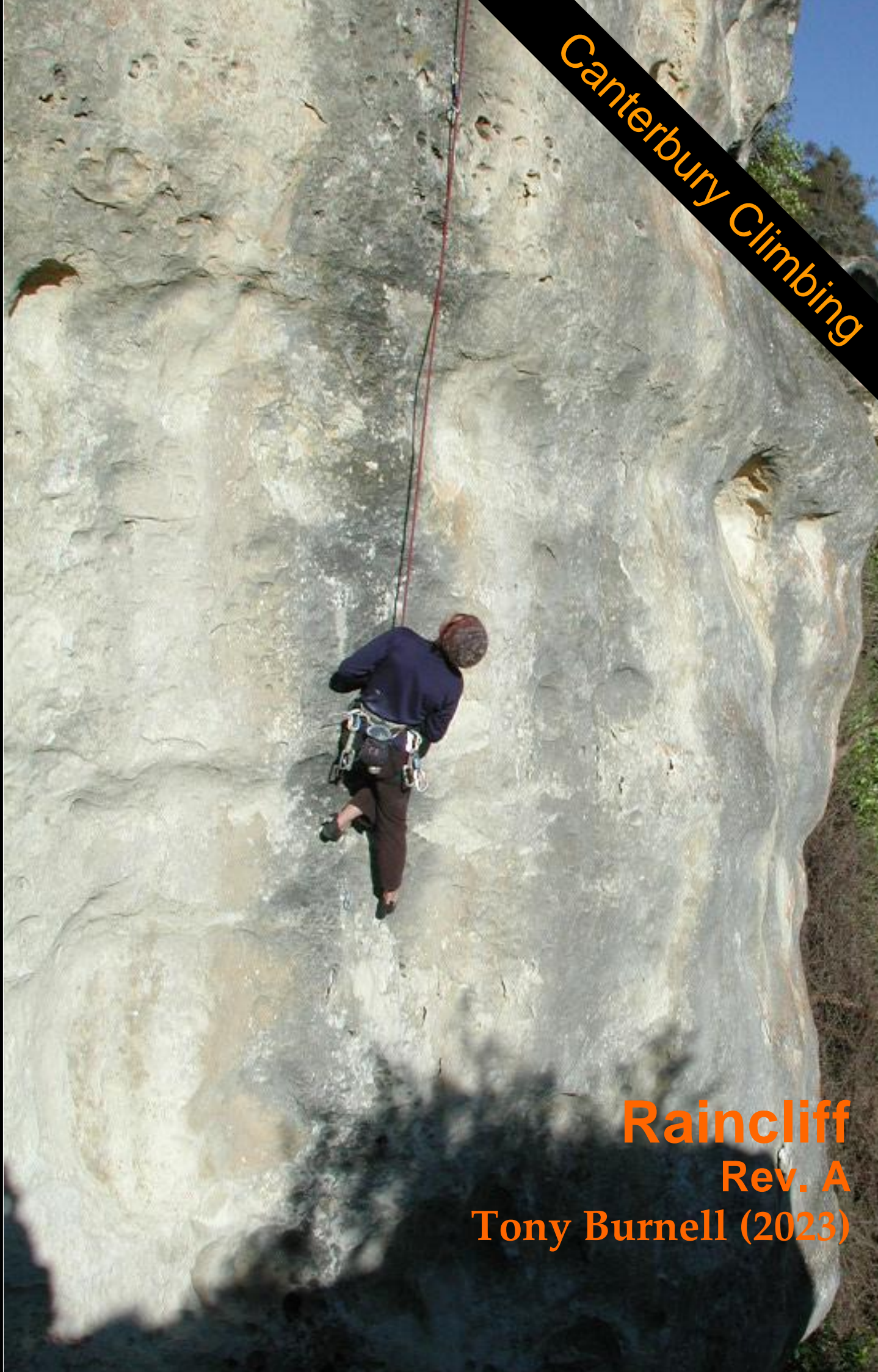


RAINCLIFF

Canterbury Climbing



Raincliff
Rev. A
Tony Burnell (2023)

Acknowledgments



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



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

NB. Cover picture is not at Raincliff

General

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

Raincliff is a collection of small north facing buttresses on the South Bank of the Opihi River 38km from Geraldine & 33km from Temuka, the crag faces north & is quite sheltered. The base of the cliff can be flooded when the river is high, the crag was almost concealed by deciduous trees but in late 2021/2022 these trees were all poisoned by persons unknown and whilst still standing they will at some stage start to topple, blackberry bushes are also an issue. Bolting is poor by modern standards in terms of both location (sometimes over 6mts up), quantity & quality, belay stations similarly, hence a lot of the climbs are dirty.

The first climbs were developed in 1989 by Ian Binnie & Geoff Bass, in 1990 they were back along with Quentin O'Brien, Geoff Ellis, Murray Bass & Lionel Clay, in 1992 & 1993 Simon Middlemass & Grant Piper also added several climbs.

Warning

Rock Climbing is Dangerous by choosing to climb at these crags you accept responsibility for your own personal safety & must make your own decision regarding the condition of any fixed equipment. Most of the fixed equipment is more than 30 years old & the climbs were bolted to a different standard. Neither the landowner, the first ascensionists or 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, use fixed gear for abseiling only, by doing this you will extend the life of the equipment considerably.

The grades at Raincliff are harder than those in the Port Hills so pick your climbs carefully

Climbing Notes

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. None of the climbs are longer than 15mts therefore route lengths are not shown. The route name that appears on the topos at the base of route line is always that of the earliest recorded climb. Climbs are listed from L to R, i.e., from the point at which you arrive at the crag when coming from the parking area.

Sport routes are marked in

Trad or mixed protection climbs are marked in

Unclimbed Routes are marked in

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used

Sp - Denotes Sport Route

So - Denotes solo route un-protectable.

Mp - Denotes Mixed Protection Route (bolts & trad)

Tr - Denotes Trad Route

#Br - Denotes the number of bolt runners

RED

GREEN

BLUE

AS – Denotes anchor station.

○ – Existing bolt / chain link position

R & L Denote Right & Left.

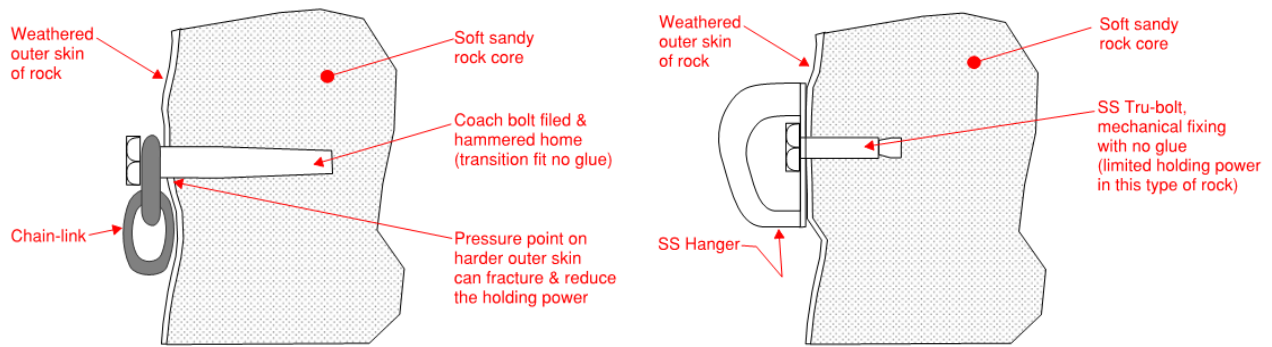
(NS) – Denotes not shown on Topo

Bolting

Do not add additional bolts to existing lines. When developing new lines make sure your new climb *does not* interfere with existing climbs. Ideally all new equipment should be 316 SS (stainless steel) & given how soft the rock is they should be the glue-in type.

The most common types of bolted protection are as shown below

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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, they are generally accepted as referring to the technical difficulty of a particular climb; it is therefore a bit tricky to use this grading system 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 my opinion & in no way scientific, gear can fail, rock can fail & any fall can result in injury.

Access & Restrictions

The parking area is located on Raincliff Rd at the at the Ophi River crossing, enter GPS coordinates in google maps to obtain the best directions. Freedom camping is allowed for registered, self-contained vehicles.

There are no restrictions on climbing.

Location	GPS	Distance	Walk Time:
Parking	-44.174890, 170.990981	-	-
Crag GP	-44.174028, 170.989171	250mts	5mins



Canterbury Crags, Raincliff: 2023

EW **Easy on the Whole** **19** **S3** **Sp** **2Br**

Simon Middlemass, 1992

Climbs the large scoop R of 'BH'. To single chain.

After 'EW' the slabby wall continues for about 30mts, angling up to where a window gives you access to the top of the crag

Area 3 (Crinkle Cut Area)

To get to 'CC', 'HH' area, from the bridge go down to the riverbank & go upstream to where the trees thin out at a clearing, enter the clearing & you arrive at a pocketed wall, this is 'CC' to its R is 'HH' however currently access is obscured by thick blackberry.



CC **Crinkle Cut** **22** **S3** **Sp** **2Br**

Ian Binnie, 1990

Climb onto the big ledge above Br1, move up to good holds & continue to the top



HH **Hinkelhook Heel Horn** **18** **S3** **Sp** **1Br**

Quentin O'Brien, 1990

Easy climbing to Br1, then gymnastically over the roof.

AS **Art of Swearing** **18** **S3** **Mp** **3Br**

Geoff Ellis, 1990

Move across the pocketed featured wall past 3Br use a cam to protect the finish

DQ **Dole Queue** **18** **S3** **Sp** **2Br**

Geoff Ellis, 1990

Up the wall finishing as for 'AS'.

Canterbury Crags, Raincliff: 2023



Area 3 (Crinkle Cut Far Right)

Access to the next three lines is pretty tricky given the undergrowth, hopefully the winter will knock it back & all will be clear.

EP? Earl & the Private Twins 16 S3 2Br Ian Binnie, 1989

Not Shown on Topo. Climbs a crack to a greasy finish.

FMJ? Full Metal Jesus 22 S3 Sp 2Br Grant Piper, 1993

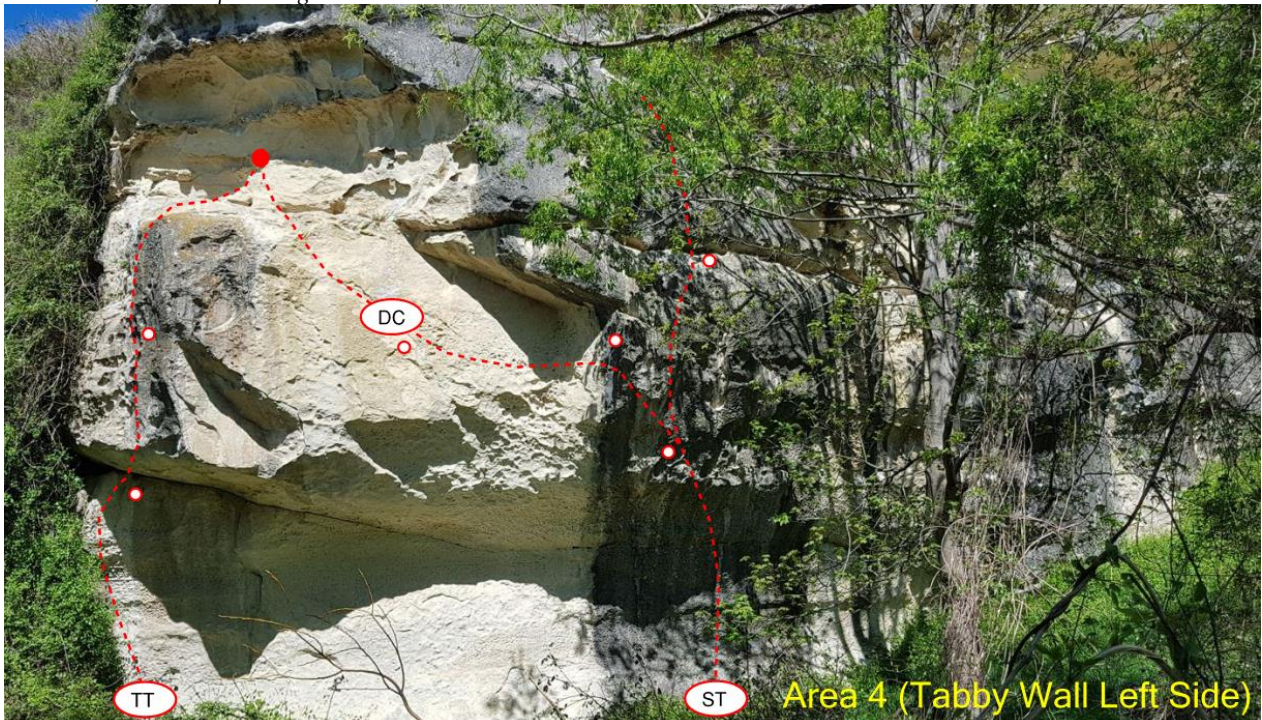
Not Shown on Topo. Climb the centre of the wall.

GJ? Gurus Just Wanna Have Fun 22 S3 Sp 2Br Ian Binnie, 1989

Not Shown on Topo. Face climbing with 2Br

Area 4 (Tabby Wall)

Just after the Crinkle Cut Wall, to get here continue along the riverbank & go in by some willows, there is a vegetated gully on the L side, the wall is quite long & undercut at the L end.



Area 4 (Tabby Wall Left Side)

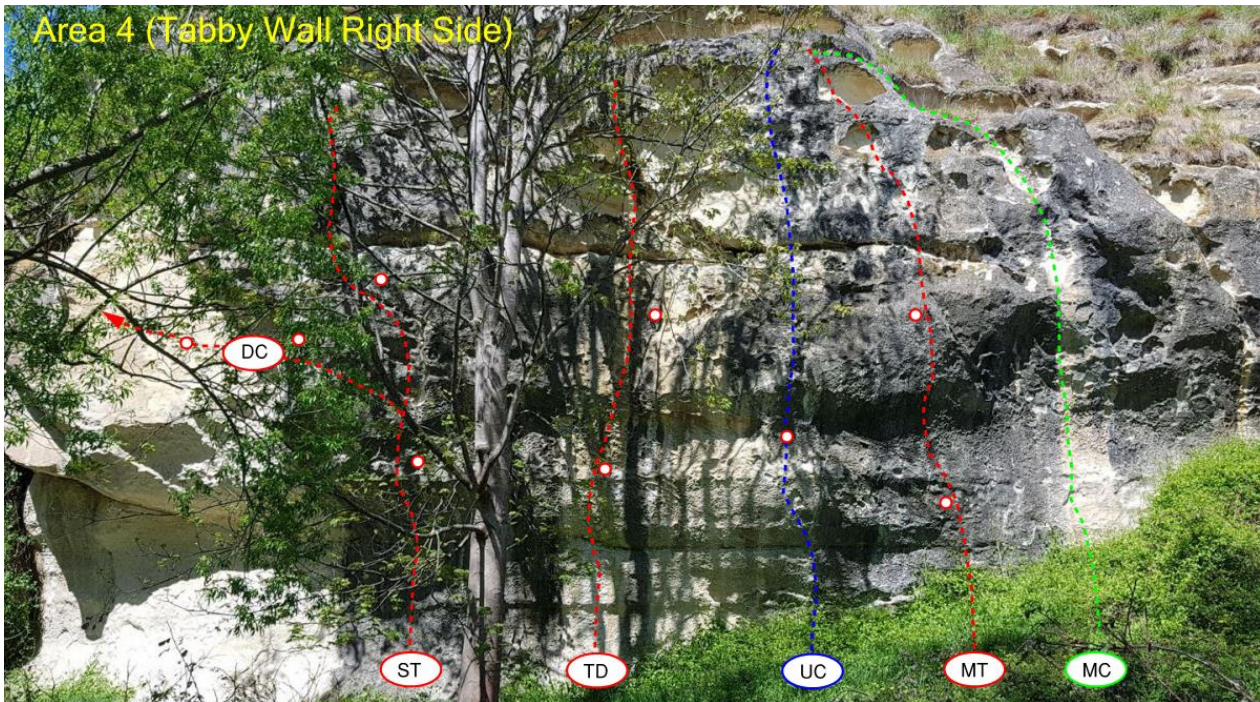
TT Tomb of the Unknown Tabby 20 S3 Sp 2Br Ian Binnie, 1990

Hardest climbing below Br1 then turn the roof to an anchor.

DC Dawn Chilom 26 S3 Sp 3Br Lionel Clay, 1990

A diagonal line starting as for 'ST' & trending across the wall to finish as for 'TT'.

Canterbury Crags, Raincliff: 2023



ST	Sabre Toothed Tart	21	S3	Sp	2Br	Ian Binnie, 1990
The wall passing 2Br's.						
TD	Tangerine Dream	23	S3	Sp	2Br	Ian Binnie, 1990
Climbs the coloured streak, tricky past Br1						
	Unclimbed line?		S3		1Br	
Single Br on the face						
MT	The Minus Touch	22	S3	Sp	2Br	Ian Binnie, 1990
Good in-cut holds lead into more fingery climbing.						
MC	Mint Condition	17	S3	So	0Br	Ian Binnie, 1990
Climb the bulge then the groove to an easy top out.						

Area 5 (Peoples Buttress)

This is the last area climbed on & upstream past the end of Tabby Wall, to get here it is best to start from the bridge & follow the river bank for 20mts then wade (ankle deep in low flow) to the shingle island walk upstream for a 100mts till you come to the long grey wall undercut at its base (it can be completely cut off by the river when in flood), there is normally a shallow lagoon under the crag.

Previously described as consumer climbs & given galaxy of stars the climbs are dirty & Br1 tends to be very high.



CF	Chillom Factor	17	S3	Mp	2Br	Tony Stempa, 1990
Climb the groove at the L side of the wall when you reach the ledge move R to a common anchor.						

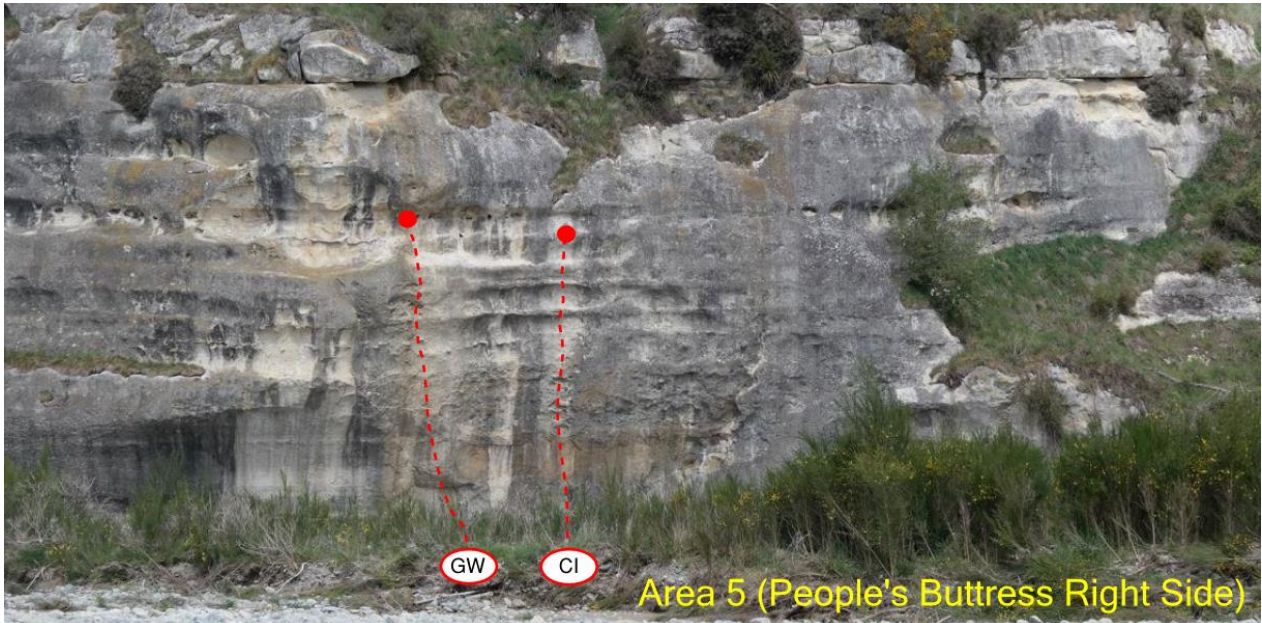
Canterbury Crags, Raincliff: 2023

CD Coup D'état 19 S3 Sp 3Br *Simon Middlemass, 1990*

Start by climbing easily to a high Br then a good sequence leads to a peculiar top out & a common anchor point

DM Dance Macabre 20 S3 Sp 3Br *Simon Middlemass, 1990*

A boulder problem start in the bottom of the groove on R leads to pinches, pockets, slopers & a mantelshelf, move back L to the common anchor.



GAW Golden Age of Wireless 23 S3 Sp 2Br *Ian Binnie, 1990*

Apparently great climbing but requiring a clip-stick of 7mts in length, previous guidebooks mention 3Br's but the 3rd is the anchor station, the last Br can be clipped in order to protect the top out.

CI Captain Incontinent 25 S3 Sp 2Br *Geoff Ellis, 1990*

Described as a grade 15 with a V5 start (wouldn't that make it 25, maybe it's a repeat typo). Do the crux above the shingle beach before Br at 6mts, then to easier climbing, lower off Br3.