

REDCLIFFES

Canterbury Climbing



Redcliffe's
Rev. A
Tony Burnell (2023)

Canterbury Crags, Redcliffe (Redcliff):2023



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

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

Warning

This is a working farm & quarry & the site is defined as a multiple hazard site. Rock Climbing is Dangerous. By choosing to climb here you accept responsibility for your own personal safety & must make your own decision regarding the condition of any fixed equipment.

Rock Climbing is Dangerous & 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 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, use fixed gear for abseiling only, by doing this you will extend the life of the equipment considerably. The grades at Redcliffs are harder than those in the Port Hills so pick your climbs carefully.

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.

Described as a poor man's Verdon, the only real thing they have in common is that they are both Limestone. What Redcliffe does have is a spectacular view out over the Rakaia.

The first recorded routes at Redcliffe were climbed by Lionel Clay with the ascent of two classic routes 'Verdone' & 'Verdid'. Over the next two years, 1990 & 1991, multiple routes were added by Bill McLeod, Andy Teasdale, Sean James & Dave Newstead. Bill McLeod recorded the biggest tally with eight routes including 'Armour Guard', 'Smith City' & 'Mobil Mart'.

Things went quiet until December 1996 when Pat Deavoll & Tony Burnell visited the crag, Pat Deavoll climbed 'Last Bus to Hale-Bopp' & 'Vernicious Knid' whilst Tony bolted & climbed 'First Among Sequels' that day; it proved to be quite apt as over the next five months he climbed a further twelve lines graded 20 to 25. The crag was left alone for a long time as access was difficult but in late 2022 early 2023, with permission, Simon Courtois & Tony Burnell revisited the crag adding a further five climbs.

Climbing Notes

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. This guide is published with the climbs listed from L to R i.e., based on approaching via *Andy's Rock*.

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. The route identifier at the bottom of each climb shown on the topos is usually that of the earliest recorded route. If you want to know where a route goes then read the text as well as looking at the topos.

YELLOW	Denotes access route / walking track.
RED	Denotes sport climb.
GREEN	Denotes trad or mixed protection climbs.
PURPLE	Denotes variation.
BLUE	Denotes abandoned project

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used:

#Br - Denotes the number of bolt runners or staples	So - Denotes Solo route unprotectable.
Sp - Denotes Sport Route	Tr - Denotes Trad Climb
Mp - Denotes Mixed Protection (bolts & trad)	R & L - Denote Right & Left

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

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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 & Restriction



Climbing is allowed by permission of Mr Duncan Ensor, Tel: 03 318 5054 or 021 855 014 The parking area is located on the farm, enter the GPS coordinates in google maps to obtain the best directions.

You must obtain permission prior to going there if you do not get a response do not make repeated calls to the landowner.

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Location	GPS	Distance	Walk Time	Restrictions
Parking	-43.383899, 171.474443	-	-	Dogs are not permitted
Climbing	-43.383823, 171.472446	80mts	3mins	Permission to climb here must be obtained



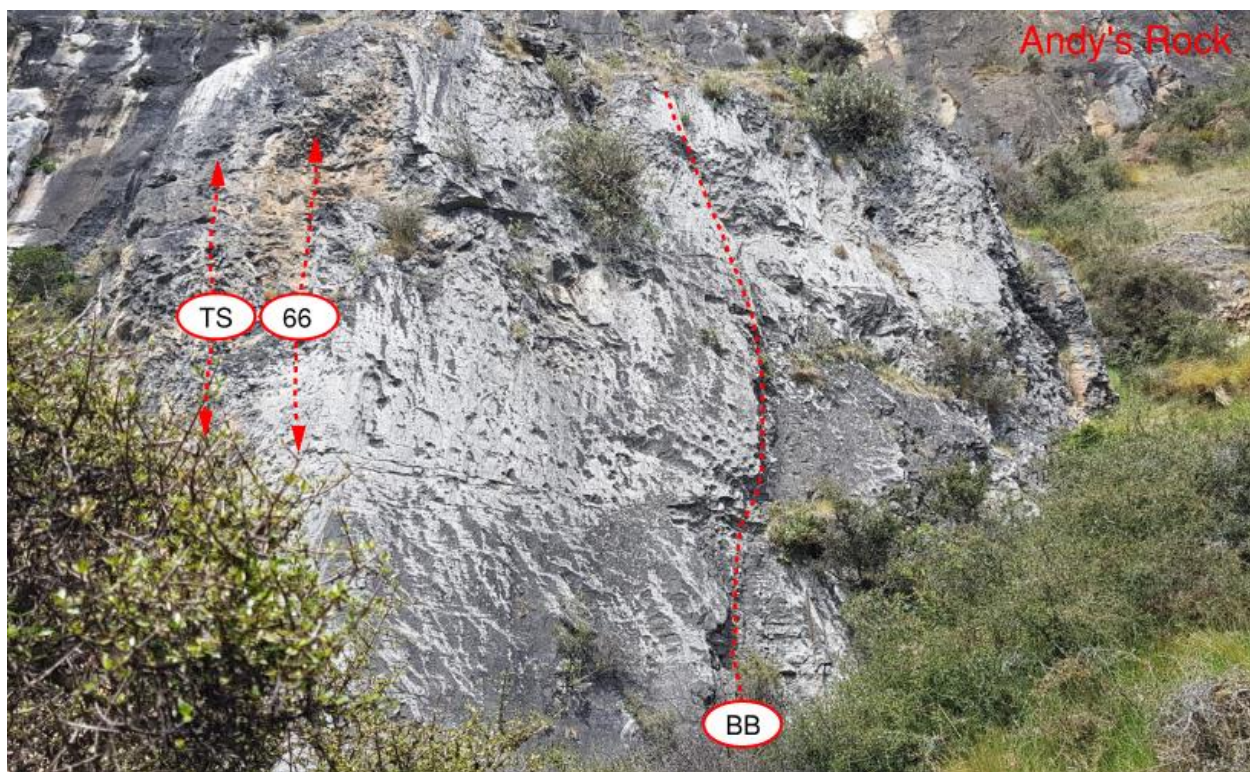
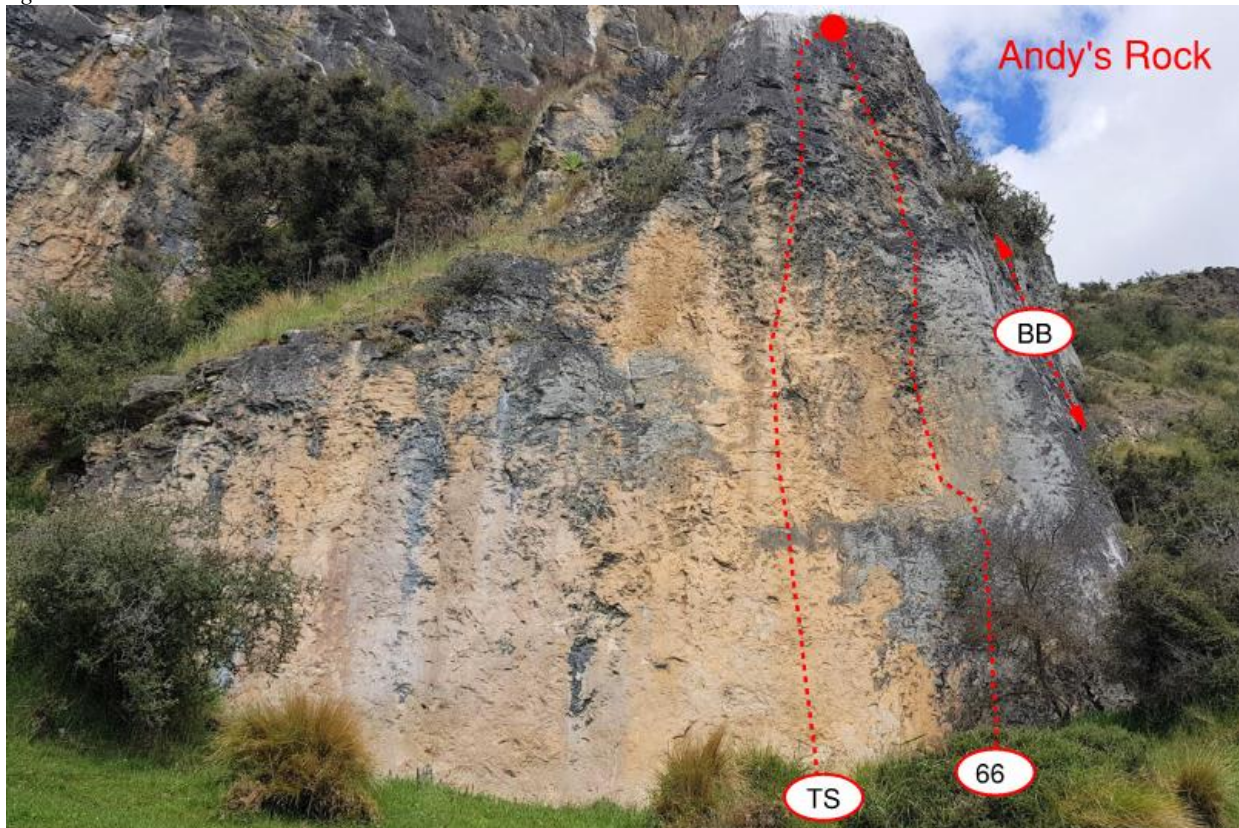
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Bolting

Do not add additional bolts to existing lines. When developing new lines make sure your new climb does not interfere with existing climbs. All new equipment should be 316 SS (stainless steel).

Andy's Rock

The first small buttress on the R as you approach the main cliff, there is a common ring set for 'TS' & '66', for 'BB' you will need to make arrangements with the local trees.

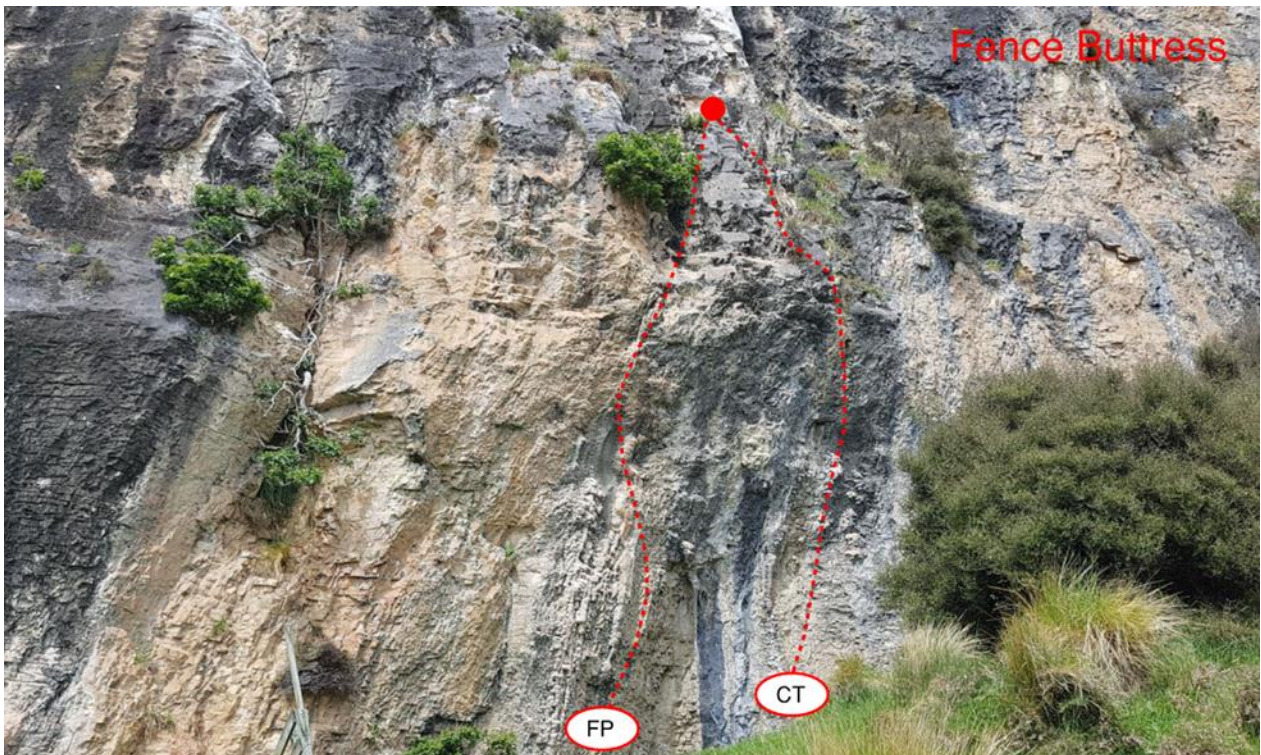
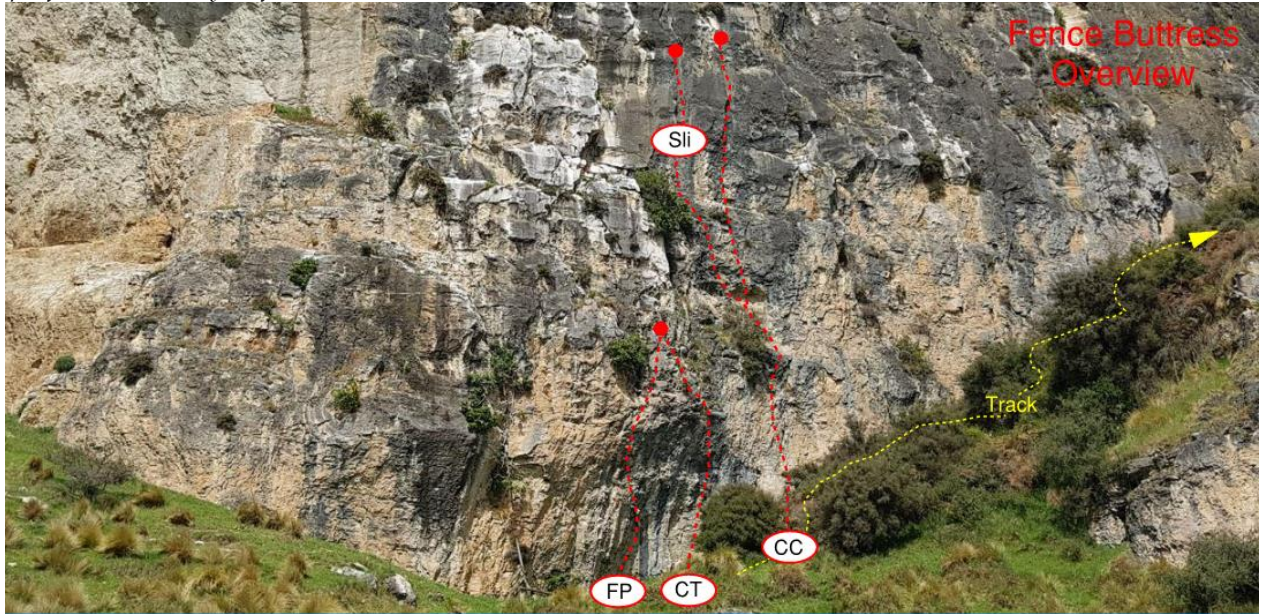


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TS	Tea & Stickies	21	S1	Sp	3Br	<i>Andy Teasdale, 1990</i>
The route on the L climb direct from below Br1, sharp & technical start easing off above to lower off.						
66	Route 66	19	S1	Sp	3Br	<i>Tony Burnell, April 2023</i>
Start by the bush, using a hole climb straight up through a scoop to trend L to a common lower off.						
BB	Bread & Butter	15	S1	Sp	2Br	<i>Andy Teasdale, 1990</i>
The R hand of two routes, steady climbing.						

Fence Buttress

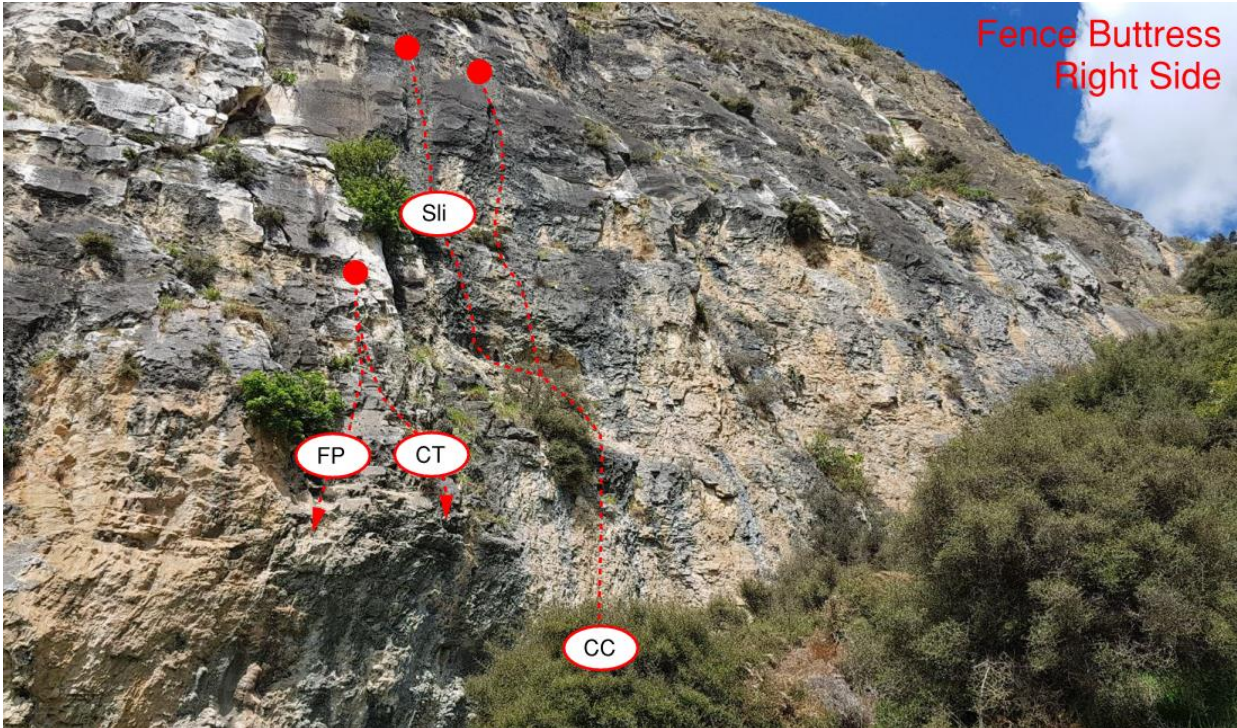
Where the fence meets the crag, the crag rises to about sixty metres, unfortunately the rock is not all good. The first two climbs are on the steep tufa covered wall by the fence.



FP	Feeling the Pinch	23	S1	Sp	3Br	<i>Tony Burnell, 1997</i>
Start below a brown coloured tufa to the R of the fence, climb the tufa & move up & R, continue up & R again to a good under-cling, go back L & up to the lip & over the roof, stand awkwardly up in the short groove before moving up to an SBA.						
CT	Crunch Time	23	S1	Sp	3Br	<i>Tony Burnell, 1997</i>
To the R of the brown tufa ('FP') is a grey tufa, climb the grey tufa move R & continue up on reasonable holds to a good						

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under-cling, a hard/long move leads to a layaway on the R, launch yourself up & L to good holds on the lip, once over the roof move L to the SBA on 'FP'.



Sli Slipstone 23 S1 Sp 9Br Tony Burnell, 1997

Follow 'CC' past to Br5, at the ledge move diagonally L across the wall to gain a hanging flake / corner, climb this using ever shrinking holds past 4Br5 to a DBA.

CC Crinkle Cut 23 S1 Sp 9Br Tony Burnell, 1997

Start approx. 4mts uphill from 'CT' on the L of a thorny bush. Climb the lower wall trending slightly R past 3Br5 to a ledge, move up & L into a shallow cave/recess, climb directly over the roof passing 2Br5 to the base of a R facing corner, go up the corner with increasing difficulty till it blanks out on a slab, move R & up Br finish over a bulge to a belay

The next climb is up the hill on a long section of slabbier rock that steepens up in the middle, start by the second waratah on the handline.



PM Potty Mouth 19 S1 Sp 10Br Simon Courtois, April, 2023

From the second waratah on the path, go through the bush to the base of the climb. Start in a corner then up a discontinuous rib past 2 ledges to the foot of the wall proper, climb the rib & bulge above before moving L into a featured groove, bridge

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up this passing 2Br before moving R to an arete, climb this onto a slab above then straight up past another Br to a DBA.

Hale-Bop Wall

The next routes are up the hill & across the wide, shallow, open gully, the first wall you come to is Hale Bop Wal.



LB Last Bus to Hale-Bob 25 S1 Sp 5Br Pat Deavoll, 1997

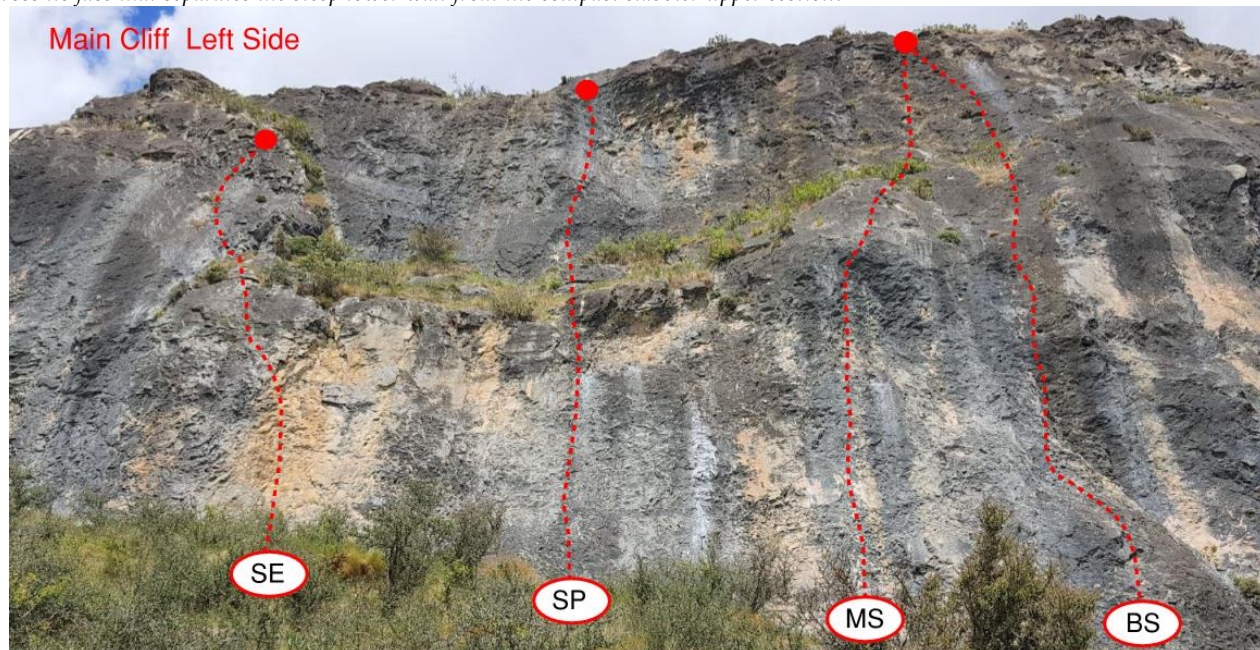
Climb the L side of the orange flaky wall, starting easily on dubious holds the route quickly steepens up & the holds keep shrinking until you're forced to reach the final short groove somewhat dynamically, move up to an insitu belay on the R

Unc Abandoned line 27? S1 Sp 5Br

Abandoned project 5 Br, shown in **BLUE**

Top Cliff

The next climbs are on the 'Top Cliff' which is just R of 'Hale Bop' wall, here the crag has a grey flaky wall with a sagging break line across its face that separates the steep lower wall from the compact slabbier upper section.



SE Skyline Enterprise 20 S1 Sp 5Br Tony Burnell, 2023

Start by climbing the first yellow groove on the L, at Br2 swing out L onto smooth grey rock with flat holds & flakes, go up

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to a ledge in a corner then out L again onto smooth grey rock, climb the R side of the HB wall to a DBA in a shallow groove.

SP Split Personality 20 S1 Sp 6Br Tony Burnell, 1997

Climb the yellow wall where the horizontal break dips to its lowest point through a shallow depression & pull on to the garden ledge by Br3, go up through the bushes to a vague rounded pillar. Climb the front face of the pillar past 3Br's finishing awkwardly on lay back holds below an SBA.

Just along from 'SP' is a small tree growing out of the crag a couple of metres off the ground

MS Monkey See 22 S1 Sp 6Br Sean James, 1990

Start about 7mts L of the tree, climb the lower wall passing 3Br's, awkward moves at Br3 gets you into a good finger pocket, the climb eases off to finish up the slabby wall to a common lower off.



BS Bottle Shop 25 S1 Sp 5Br Tony Burnell, 1997

The climb takes a direct line up the wall to the L of 'HR'. Start below a L trending black ramp / groove in the centre of the buttress, easily up past Br1 to stand in the groove, move L onto the wall, awkwardly past Br3, straight up to Br4 & good holds above, stand in the scoop exiting past Br5 to a common lower off.

HR Hard Rock Cafe 21 S1 Sp 6Br Dave Newstead, 1990

The small bush does nothing to enable you to get your hands in the crack, however once you're in the crack your away continue up the R facing corner.

SS Shell Shop 21 S2 Sp 4Br Bill McLeod, 1990

The next R facing groove, climb the groove & continue up the arete which suddenly peters out & you're stood above your gear trying to get off the rock, there are good holds, however they are not close & some balance work is required to finish. From here the climbing eases off all the way to the belay.

FS First Among Sequels 24 S1 Sp 5Br Tony Burnell, 1996

Takes a line though the bulges to the R of 'SS' on perfect compact rock. Start on the R & commit yourself on to the wall by swinging round leftwards to Br1 & the first bulge, over the bulge leftwards on good sharp holds then move back R on tufa layaways. Straight up (crux) to more tufa continue up to the last Br & finish up L to the belay of 'SS'.

The next 2 climbs are on the steep end wall.

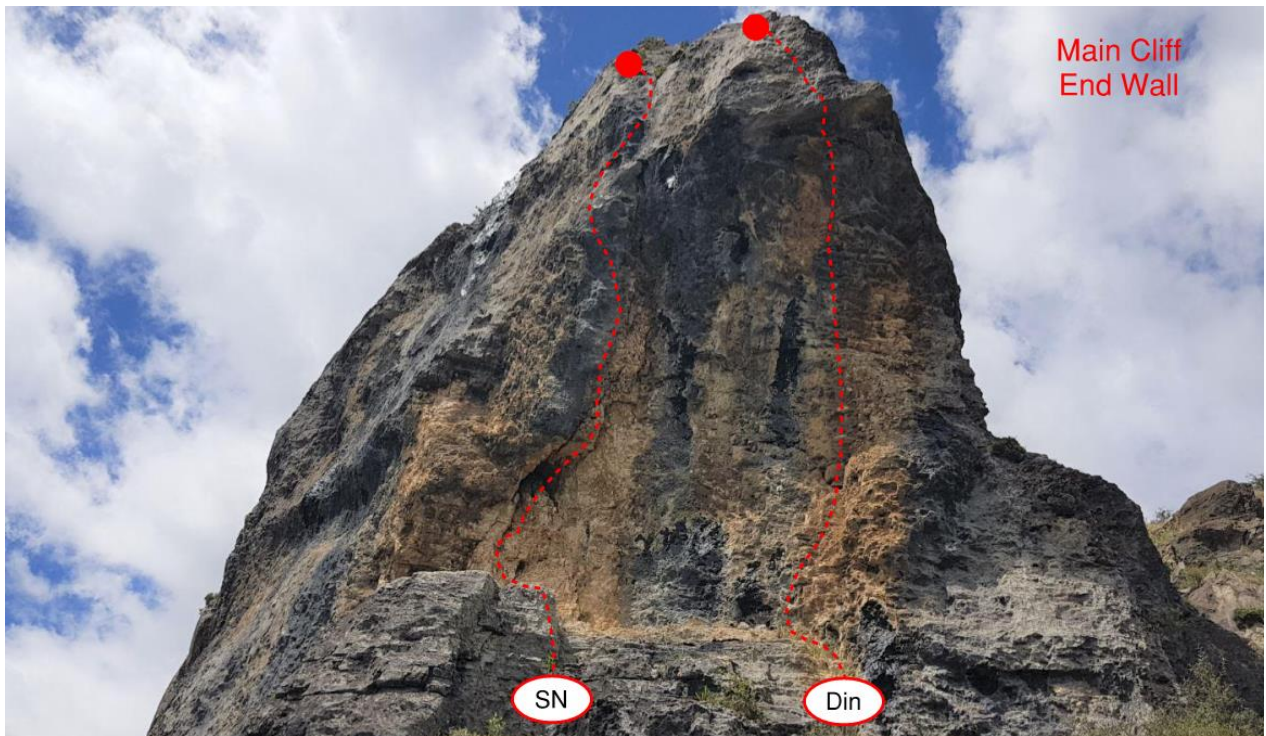
SN Spiny Norman 24 S1 Sp 5Br Tony Burnell, 1997

Around to the R of 'FS' is a bulging wall/roof with a shattered groove on the L side & a ledge at 3mts. Scramble onto the ledge & start just R of the groove. Climb the wall past 2Br to gain the groove. Strenuous climbing up the groove past 2Br's leads to a standing position above your gear on a steep slab/wall. Climb the short wall past a final Br to an easy exit & a lower off high on the arete.

Din Dinsdale 21 S2 Sp 5Br Tony Burnell, 1997

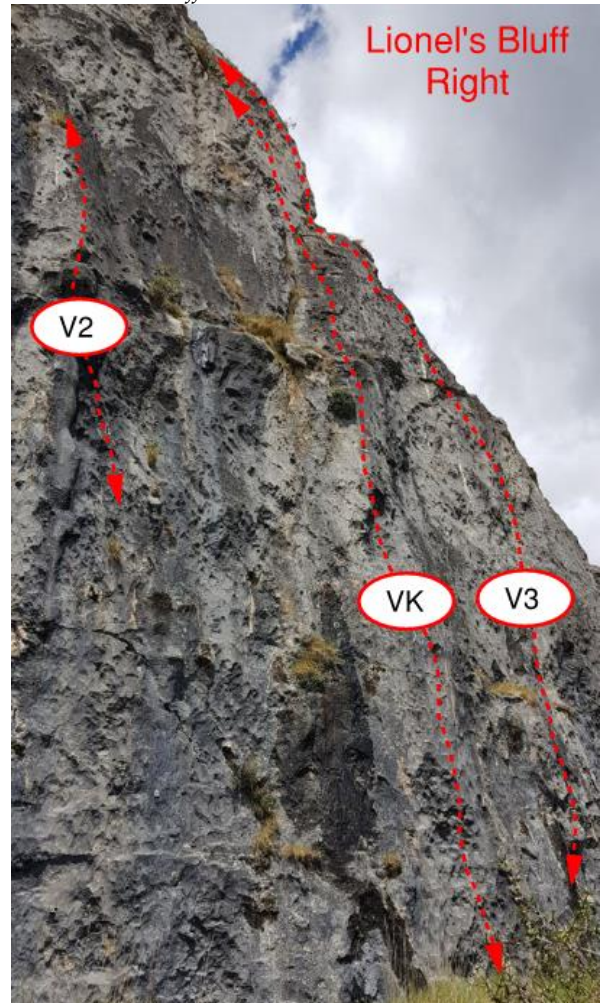
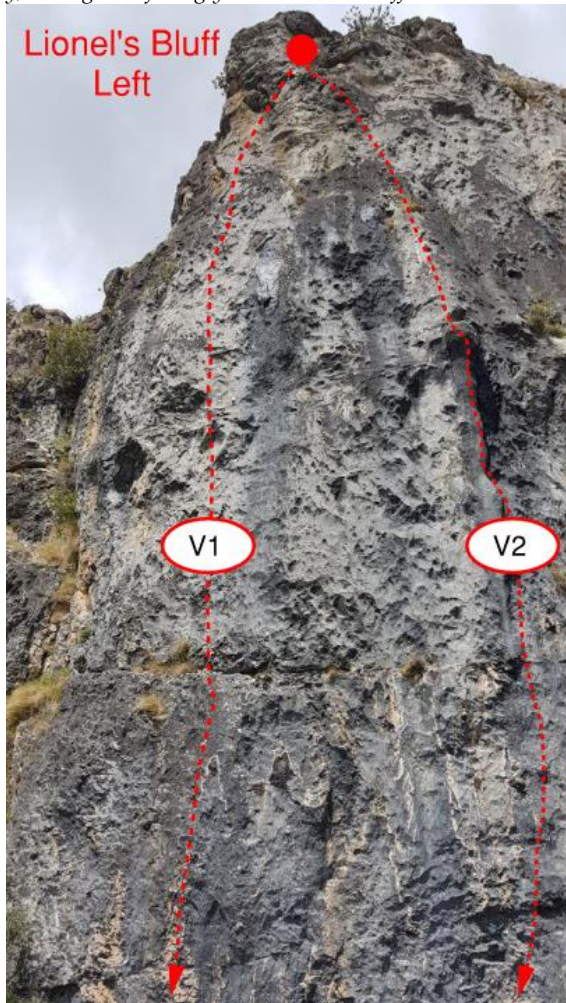
The roof R of 'SN', move up onto a ledge below a shallow L facing corner. Climb the corner on good holds to flat ledges, go up R to good foot ledges & make an awkward clip. Good lay away hold next to Br3 then a long move to reach good hold below the lip. Cut loose & launch up for a good ledge on the arete, lean round the corner & clip, continue easily to the belay of 'SN'.

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Lionel's Bluff

To get to the next four routes contour round the hillside to the R. After about two hundred metre you come to a saddle at the top of a gully, the big wall facing you is Lionel's Bluff on which are some of the best routes at Redcliffe



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V1 Verdid 23 S1 Sp 6Br *Lionel Clay, 1989*

Excellent climbing up the L side of the wall. Start at the top of the gully, climb easily up to & past the horizontal break on to the wall proper. The crux goes on a bit with thin sequency climbing from Br4 to Br6, finish easily to an insitu belay

V2 Verdone 22 S1 Sp 6Br *Lionel Clay, 1989*

Start approx. 5mts R of 'V1' down the gully by some thorn bushes. Climb the initial wall making some of the hardest moves on the route to get to good holds in the break. Easy climbing up & onto the top of the tufa pillar gets you to the second crux, go slightly R or slightly L or straight up it's your choice. Move L when you can to join 'V1' the last Br, use the same anchor. *Scramble down the gully under Verdone & Verdid to a belay bolt at the base of a shattered groove the next two routes start from here.*

VK Vernicious Kid 23 S1 Sp 9Br *Pat Deavoll, 1997*

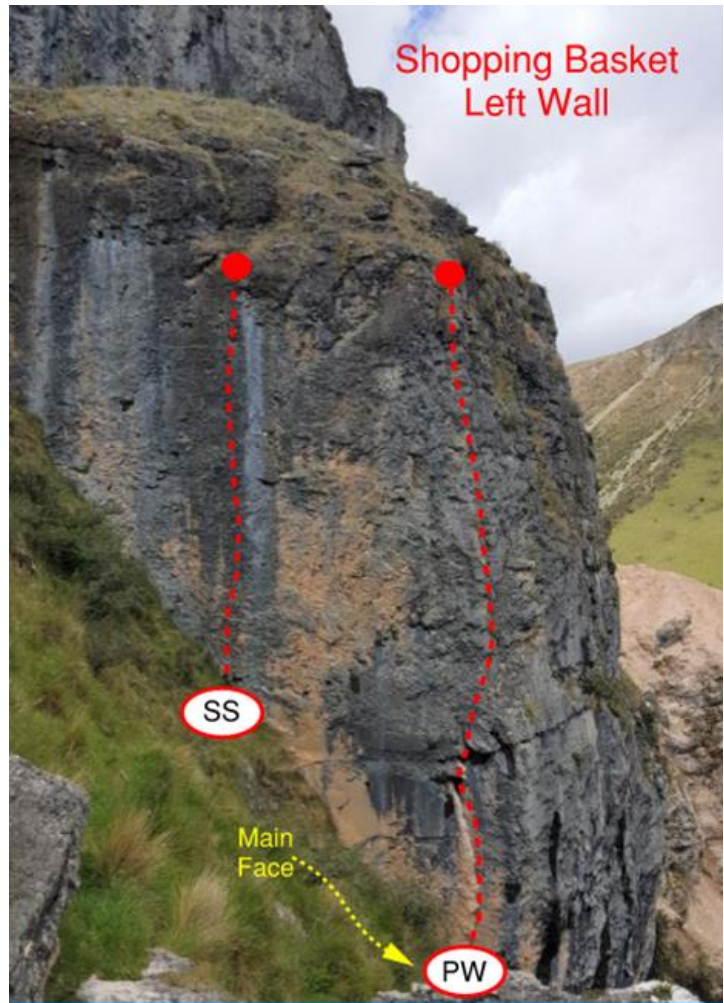
Swing out L on to the wall & climb up to a wide tufa pillar continue with difficulty to a grassy shelf & take break. From the shelf move L into a shallow scoop (crux), continue up the corner above to a loose looking block on the next ledge system finish easily up to a lower off.

V3 Ver-said 24 S1 Sp 8Br *Tony Burnell, 1997*

Bridge up the groove & using undercuts move up the steep wall to a lay away hold. Move R across the wall & up to poor holds below a rounded tufa, more small holds on the R allow you to move up awkwardly to gain a deep letter box, before a resting ledge. Move a up to a deep hole then swing L onto the steep face & very small holds, head slightly R above the Br & into layaway holds above a blind break (from the resting ledge the difficult climbing could be avoided by moving to the R arete), exit easily taking care with any loose rock before moving L to a DBA.

Shopping Basket

This is the small crag on the R at the bottom of the gully when looking out. To get to the base the easiest way is to walk down the hillside on the R passing under 'SS' on the way



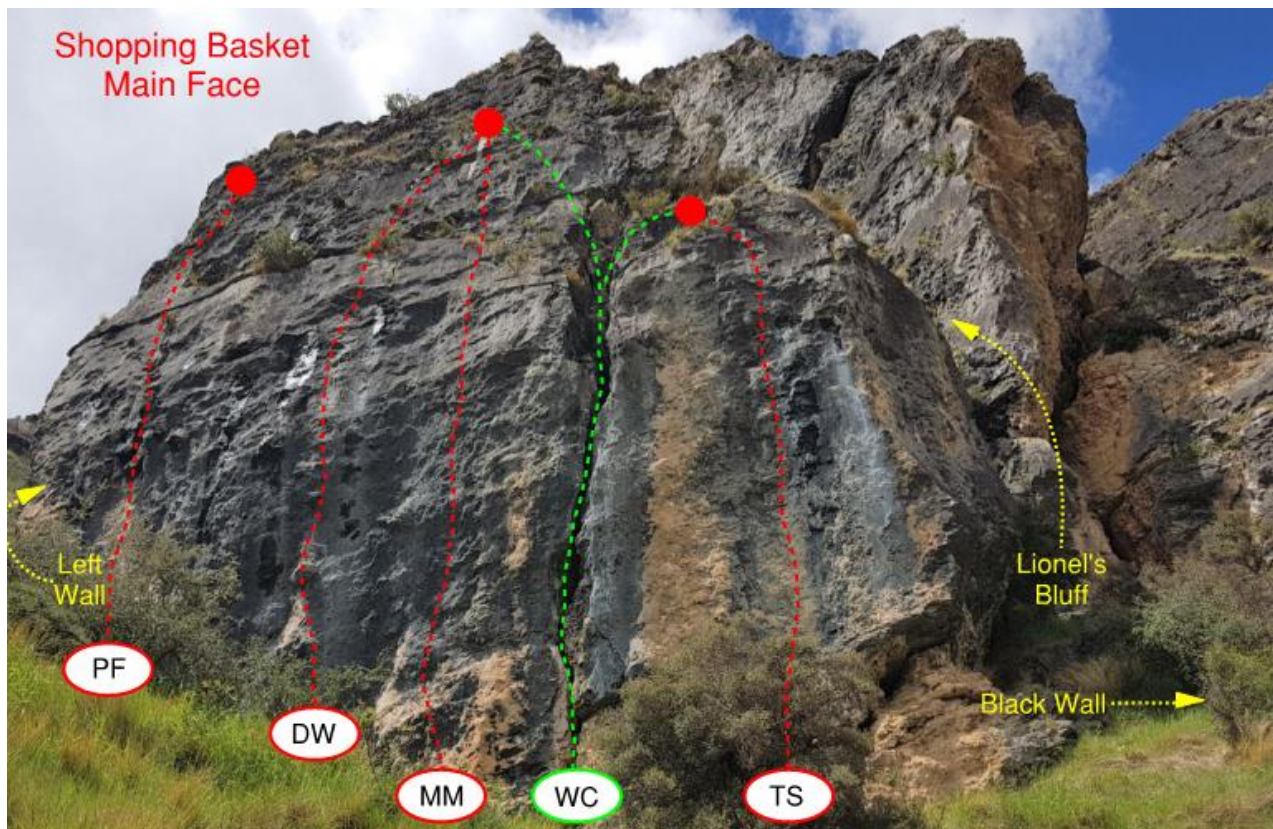
SS Stretch's Seventeen 17 S3 Sp 2Br *Dave Newstead, 1990*

Takes the L wall of the buttress, face climbing on positive holds past 2Br to a belay.

PW Penny Wise 17 S1 Sp 5Br *Tony Burnell, 2022*

Start at the toe of the buttress, climb the wide flake crack past a Br, through a bulge & the vague groove L of the arete & trending up L to a lower off.

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PF	Pound Foolish	20	S1	Sp	5Br	<i>Tony Burnell, 2022</i>
Start 2mts R of the L arete, move up through tuffas then a blank wall to easier ground to a lower off.						
DW	Dollar Wise	20	S2	Sp	4Br	<i>Bill McLeod, 1990</i>
The L of 4 routes on the front face of the buttress. Start at a shallow corner & climb sometimes awkwardly to Br4, trend R to the belay of 'MM'.						
MM	Mobil Mart	23	S2	Sp	3Br	<i>Bill McLeod, 1990</i>
Takes a line up the centre of the buttress past 3Br to an insitu belay. Two tufa corbels project from the face, getting onto the L hand one is easy but doesn't help. technical & pumpy.						
WC	The Wide Crack	16	S3	Tr	0Br	<i>Unknown</i>
The wide crack, hand grating crack.						
TS	Today's Special	22	S2	Sp	3Br	<i>Bill McLeod, 1990</i>
Another good route hard face climbing up the wall to the R of 'WC'.						

The Crossley Wall

'The Crossley Wall' is only recorded for posterity as the encroaching quarry may seal its fate. Looking out from the 'Shopping Basket' this wall is down the hill to the south. The wall is quite high but the two routes only go about twenty metres. The wall is yellow coloured & has the texture of a Hedgehog. At its L side there is a large boulder leaning against the crag forming an overhanging wall.

ST	Soft Touch	21	S1	Sp	7Br	<i>Tony Burnell, 1996</i>
Start about 5mts from the large overhanging boulder & follow the L line of Brs up the wall past the ledge at half height, there are a couple of small roof's on the way & some care is needed with blocks at the half way ledge, lower off at the top.						
Cru	Crunchie	21	S1	Sp	7Br	<i>Tony Burnell, 1997</i>
Climb the spiky wall R of 'ST'. The lower wall has 4Br's & steepens up towards the halfway ledge, gain the ledge from the L with care (loose rock). Straight up the upper wall & after the last Br go L to the lower off on 'ST'.						

Black Wall

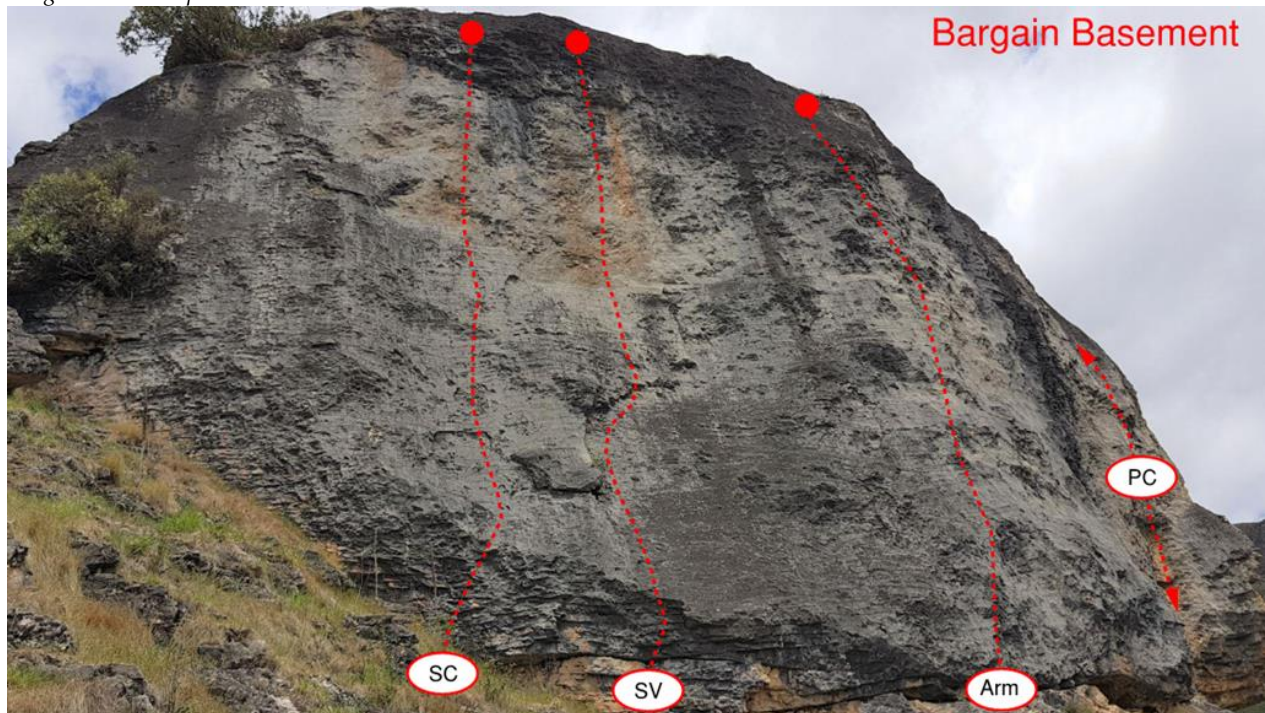
Continue across the hillside past Shopping Basket & under the gully of Lionel's Bluff then uphill slightly to the foot of a large black wall.

BS	Black Slabbeth	23	S2	Sp	4Br	<i>Tony Burnell, 1997</i>
Start in the centre of the wall & climb direct up the wall past 3Br's, above Br3 move L & up to a good flat ledge then up & teeter back R on poor holds to Br4 with a good foot ledge to clip the bolt, straight up to a DBA, (PS it's not a slab).						



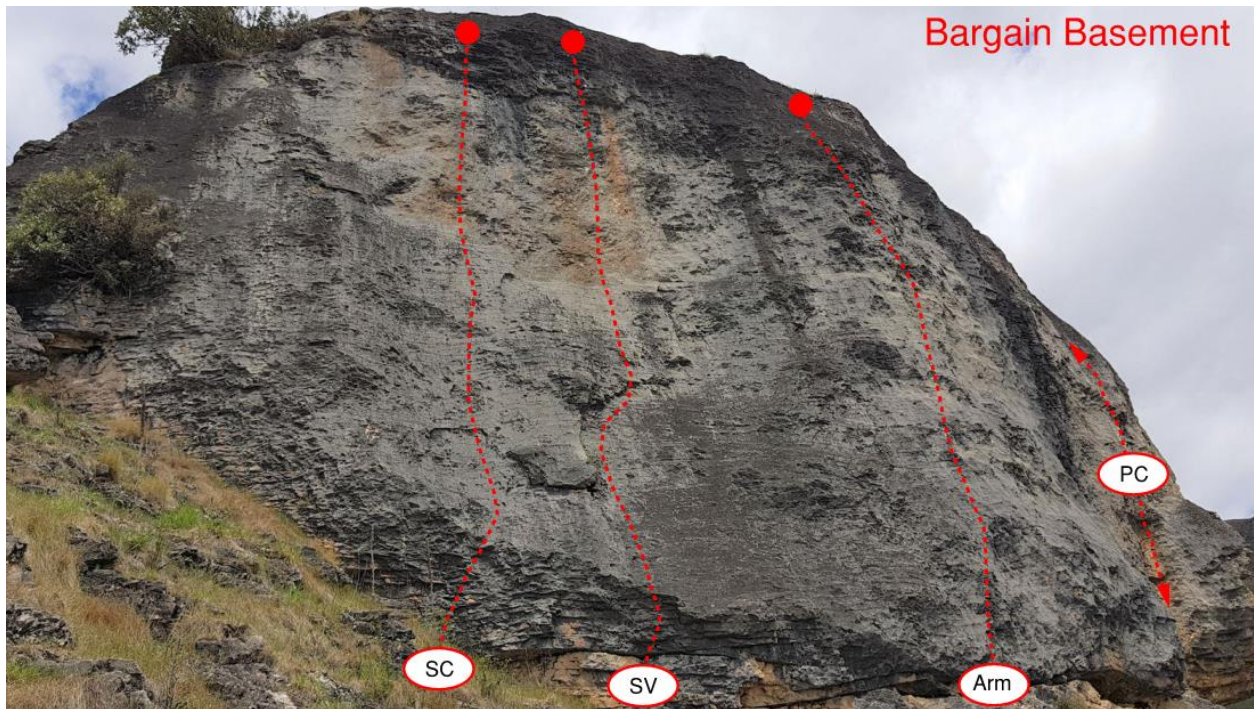
Bargain Basement

From 'Shopping Basket' go across the hillside towards the road, at a rocky saddle with a gully on its far side descend to this smooth wall with instant exposure. There are four routes described from L to R, a little way down the gully is an insitu Br, the main feature of the wall is a large smooth scoop in the middle.



- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----|----|----|-----|-------------------|
| SC | Smith City | 22 | S2 | Sp | 3Br | Bill McLeod, 1990 |
| A boulder problem start gets you onto the wall proper, continue up the L side of the scoop which becomes ever steeper until you surmount the overlap at the top. | | | | | | |
| SV | Super Value | 23 | S2 | Sp | 3Br | Bill McLeod, 1990 |
| Takes a line up the centre of the scoop. Climb the R facing flake into the scoop, continue up the steep orange wall above. | | | | | | |

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Arm	Armourguard	26	S2	Sp	4Br	<i>Bill McLeod, 1990</i>
R again is a grey slabby wall, start at an insitu Br, 'delicate, complex & sustained' the guide say's & that about sums it up.						
PC	Price Chopper	21	S2	Sp	3Br	<i>Bill McLeod, 1990</i>
The very righthand route, climb the wall near the orange streak past 3Br's then move out R to the arete & hand traverse back L before ascending the final stepped groove.						