Slack Wall & Valley of Swallows Tony Burnell rision G (2024)





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

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

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 cut down or otherwise damage native plants.

These crags are located on the South side of the Summit Road overlooking Lyttelton Harbour & are well sheltered from the Northerly & fairly sheltered from the Easterly winds. *The Black Wall* is the next crag from *Farm Park* accessed via the Crater Rim Walkway, The *Valley of Swallows* is accessed from *The Black Wall*.

The Black Wall has a mix of both good & not so good Port Hills rock, it also has some good & some not so good climbs. Predominantly the routes are sport climbs & it is a great little venue. The crag was discovered almost simultaneously by Bill McLeod, Pete Sykes, Athol Whimp, Simon Middlemass, john McCallum & Gavin Tweedie (not 100% sure of the teams). A hand full of pseudo sport climbs were done here during the early development, of these Athol's 'Steel Rain' & Pete's 'Tarn' are the stand outs. Some of the trad lines from this period were climbed on sight & in the case of climbs like "Die Yuppie Die & "Principal this is quite impressive. The crag was left alone until 1997/1998 when Simon Middlemass returned along with John McCallum, they in turn brought along Pat Deavoll to sort out some hard routes, amongst the best routes are The Full Monty, If Jenny Craig Could See Me Now, Liaisons Dangereux & A Slice of Life. Independently the crag was also discovered by Craig Smith & Tony Burnell. The last wave of development was by Tony Burnell & Simon Courtois post 2010/2011 earthquakes, post-quake they replaced almost all anchors some being repositioned from the top of the crag where quake damage was significant. Since the earthquakes Simon & Tony added some great climbs, such as Learning to Fly, Between the Lines, Naval Gazing & Pincushion. Controversy dogged the development at Black Wall with the de-gearing of Joker Hysterical Face & Pressure Test by persons unknown within days of the first ascents, & again in 2021 two climbs were de-geared by a local climber, both lines, Dangelina Jolie & Don Whillans Drilling, had been lead on trad gear by Simon Courtois but the decision was then taken to bolt the lines as the crag is predominantly a sport crag, in 2021 the hangers were removed & stolen & the studs hammered home by persons unwilling to own up to the act or return the hardware.

Valley of Swallows is the last crag in this area, currently there are 5 sport climbs & 5 trad lines, the trad lines were climbed by *Tony Billings, Mike Smith & Mike Smith*, the sport lines were climbed by *Lindsay Main, Joe Arts & Tony Burnell*.

Access & Restrictions The Black Wall & Valley of Swallows overlook Whakaropa, Lyttelton Harbour, & are in Awaroa/ Godley Head Reserve with parking & access from Breezes Col.

Area	GPS	Distance	Walk Time	Restrictions
Parking Area	-43.59259, 172.78287	-	-	Dogs should always be kept on
The Black Wall	-43.595748, 172.778109	9 620 mts	12 mins	a lead
Valley of Swallows	-43.596042, 172.775248	950 mts	20 mins	

From the Breezes Col parking area cross the Summit Rd heading west, go over the stile & continue west towards Lyttelton on the Crater Rim Track. At the third orange topped route marker, just after a single formed step, go left off the track onto some rocks before dropping into a shallow gut, then contour across the flank of the hill following a vague track, with cairns, to reach a flat area at the head of an open gully for

first time visitors head down the open gully & turn R to get to the foot of the Pinnacle.

To get to *Valley of Swallows* continue past *The Black Wall & West Wall*, at the end of the *West Wall* head into the bush & at the other side of the bush drop down through the bracken, head back up hill before & contouring under a small wall, after this keep at the same level heading west, after crossing an old slip go around the spur into the *Valley of Swallows*. There's lots of vegetation at the base of the crag & the easiest access is to stay close to the base.





Climbing Notes <u>Warning</u>, <u>Climbing is Dangerous</u> 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. Neither the first ascensionists nor the author accepts 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. Replacement of gear has always been acceptable, but climbers should not add bolts to existing climbs.

The Black Wall is not the most popular crag around even though it has some good climbs. Climb with care, test all holds before you pull on them, check your placements & wear a helmet. It is always 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

Sport routes are marked in

Trad or mixed protection climbs are marked in

Variations are marked in

YELLOW RED GREEN

**PURPLE** 

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used:

#Br - Denotes the number of bolt runners or staples. DBA - Denotes anchor / belay station.

Sp - Denotes Sport Route.

So - Denotes solo route unprotectable.

Tr - Denotes Trad Route.

R & L - Denote R & L.

Mp - Denotes Mixed Protection Route (bolts & trad)

**Seismic Damage** There has been some earthquake damage at *The Black Wall*, however it is not that significant as to make climbing there untenable. There were some issues with some of the rock layering at the top of the crag, where this has happened the worst of the rock has been removed & in some cases the anchor points have been lowered. One of the descent routes is down the rib to the R by *Twisting by the Pool* care should be taken as this rib which is very fractured post earthquake



**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-	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.9</b>	5.10a	5.10b	5.10b	5.10c	5.11a	5.11b	5.11c	5.12a	5.12b
Euro	<b>4</b> c	5a	5b	5 <i>c</i>	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

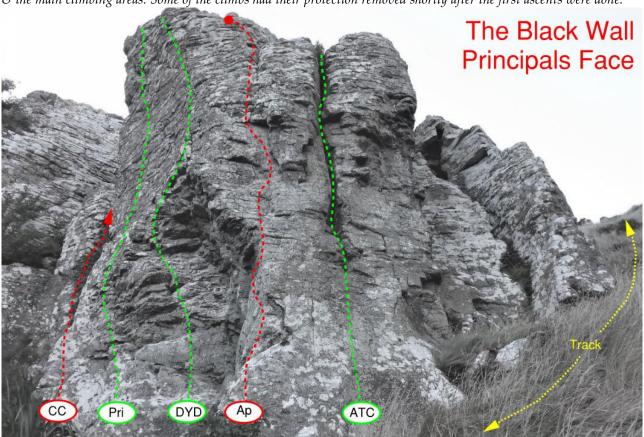
Climbers should remember that this additional suffix to the grade is my opinion & in no way scientific, gear can fail, rock can fail & any fall can result in injury. As far as possible all known routes have been included in this guide. If you want to know where a route goes read the text as well as looking at the topos.

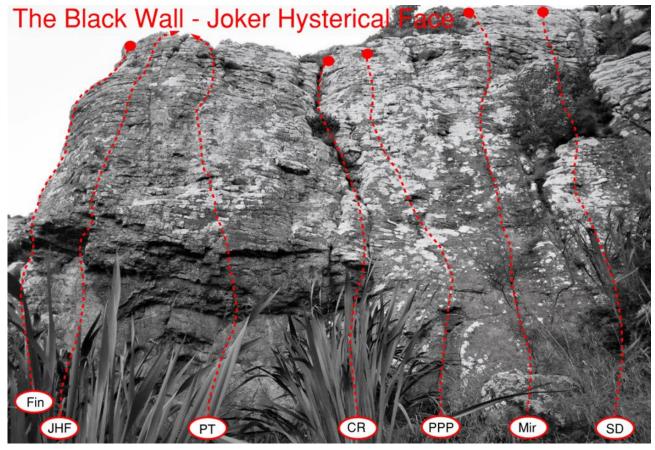
#### Overview



**The Strip** This area of the crag has sustained significant earthquake damage & in its current state is not worth climbing on, any routes done here would be in the lower grades.

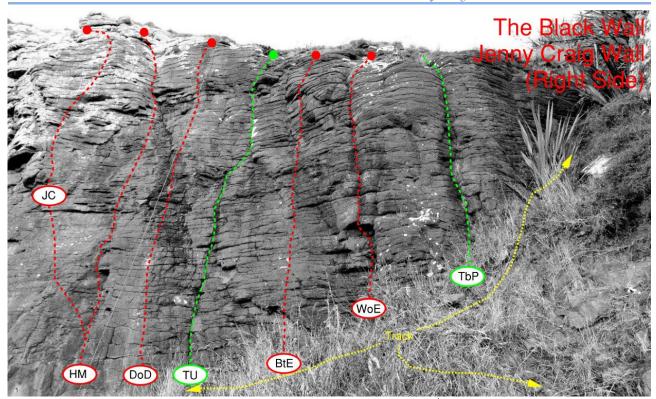
**Principles** & **Joker Faces** These two buttresses are on the true R of the wide access gully between the Strip & the main climbing areas. Some of the climbs had their protection removed shortly after the first ascents were done.





Tony Billing, 1997 ATC **Avoiding the Crowds 17** S3Tr 0Br The first climb after you exit the wide gully. Climb the slab to the R of the arete, then the off-width crack that splits the face. Simon courtois, 2021 19 S1 Ap **Aplomb** SP 5Br Start on the slab & move up to the base of the arete, skirt the lip moving R to a flake & crack above. Bill McLeod, 1991 Principle S3Tr 0Br The rightmost & original line on the steep west face with incipient cracks, skirts the lip towards the blunt arete before going straight up, minimal pro. Lead & cleaned on-sight. Athol Whimp, 1991 Die Yuppie Die S30Br20 Starts just L of the centre of the west face following the incipient cracks. Cam Pawson, 2016 **Camelot Corner** 16 S<sub>2</sub> Sp 4Br Start at the base of the left arête, climb the white wall to gain the cleft, bridge up this then climb the wall Joker Hysterical Face is the next buttress L has a roof on the L side & a prominent pink slab on its R side leading into a egetated corner. Grant Piper, 2016 SD **Staple Diet** 17 **S1** Sp 5Br The right most route on the slabby, pink, south face. Up the wall to the ledge up the whiter head wall to a Mir Miro 18 **S1** Sp 5Br Pete Sykes, 1991 On the slabby, pink, south face. Reequipped at the FA request, start just L of a choked crack straight up the wall past some left facing overlaps. Tony Burnell, 2016 **PPP Pink Palette Pulling** 21 **S1** Sp 4Br Straight up the slabby wall, tricky start getting easier as you get higher Grant Piper, 2016 4Br Chain Reaction Sp Climbs the central groove on the pink wall. Tricky moves up into the groove with an easier finish to the anchors. The next two routes share a common anchor, unfortunately a couple of local climbers removed all the protection. Tony Burnell, 1998 **Pressure Test** 24 S2Sp 5Br No Hangers. Starting on the undercut slab, cross a small roof trending L then back R to finish up lichenous white wall. Johnathon Wilkinson, 1998 **IHF Joker Hysterical Face** 23 S2 Sp 5Br No Hangers. Start almost on the arête move up & R through roof then go up the thin slab. Simon Courtois, 2021 Fin **Finalmente S1** Sp 5Br Start in the groove in the arête, just L of the roof. Climb the groove, turn the roof on the R then up the slightly more user-friendly face. Grant Piper, 2016 NS**Kelvinator Crack** 17 **S1** Sp 5Br Not shown on Topo At the very L side of the buttress & takes a line up the groove system just L of the arête, straight up bridging the groove to an anchor station out R. **Tenny Craig Wall** This is the ruddy black wall at the base of the flax filled gully, the real start of the crag. The first (11) climbs are on the wall to the R of the large (Matipo) tree, the image is slightly skewed. Simon Middlemass, 1998 Twisting by the Pool 16 S3 So 0Br A short (4m) bulging boulder problem up the first vague seam/corner near the bottom of the flax filled gully. Single bolt at the top can be used to get down. Winky the One-Eyed Snake Sp 4Br Simon Courtois, 2016 S1Climbs the hanging groove, over a bulge & onto slabbier rock at the top. 4Br Pam Yee, 2016 Blinky the Three Eyed Fish 16 S1 Sp Originally a top roped line by Chris Owen in January 1997. Now a sport line. John McCallum, 1997 S3TU The Uprooter 15 Tr 0Br Climbs the R trending weakness between the bolted lines, gear is poor, take the line of least resistance past

the lichen spots.

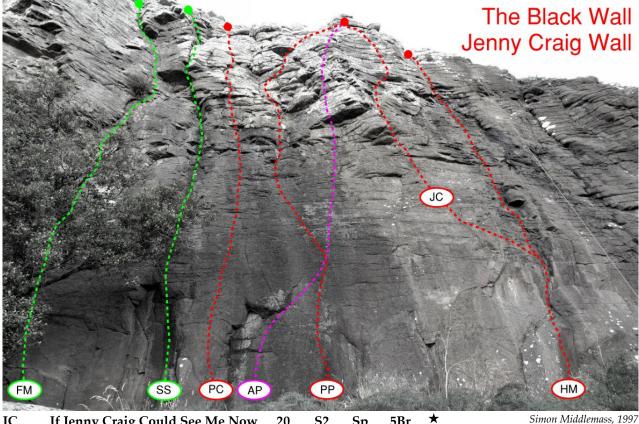


DoD Dreaming of Dry Rock 22 S1 Sp 5Br ★ Tony Burnell, 2015
Start L of 'TU' & climb the wall as directly as possible up the line of bolts, the crux is the last move to DBA.

HM Half Man Half Biscuit 19 S2 Sp 2Br ★★ Gavin Tweedie, 1991

A good climb if under bolted Where the level ground starts climb the broken corner past 2 glve in bolts.

A good climb if under bolted. Where the level ground starts, climb the broken corner past 2 glue-in bolts. Straight up with an excursion out L before the final groove.



JC If Jenny Craig Could See Me Now 20 S2 Sp 5Br ★ Simon Middlemass, 1997 Start as for 'HM', at the first good hold go diagonally L to the high Br1 then up over bulge & head wall

finishing L of the last Br.

PP The Power of Piss

23 S2 Sp 4Br

John McCallum, 1998

Start directly below Br1, hard moves up the brown wall via thin layaways to get to Br1, head diagonally L to the R most of 2 side by side bolts, go up the shallow corner system before veering R to a common anchor.

AP Attitudes & Platitudes

S2 Sp 5Br

Tony Burnell, 2022

Start just R of the short leaning black corner boulder up & R to Br1 on 'PP' go straight up line of bolts to a common

PC Pin Cushion

22 S1 Sp 7Br \*\*

Tony Burnell, 2015

A direct line up the face between 'PP' & 'SS' straight up the line of bolts, start on the slabby tongue of rock a below Br1, hard moves to good holds, then finish up the steep white, lichenous rock.

SS Smoke Screen

21 S2 Mp 1Br

Craig Smith, 1998

Just R of the obvious large tree is a small alcove with an obvious groove / seam above, again a bouldery start protected by a Br leads to easier climbing through the mid-section, committing moves through crack & overhang at top.

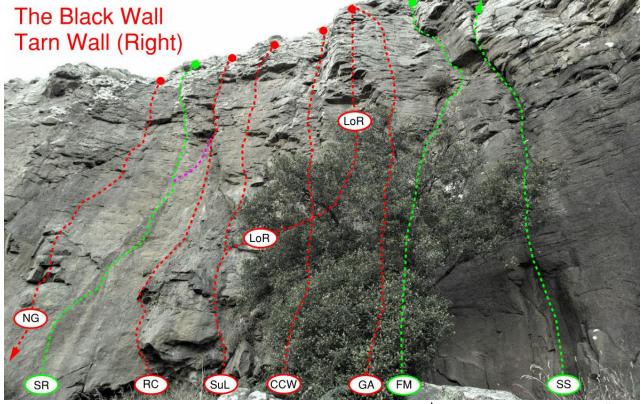
FM The Full Monty

18 S2 Mp 3Br ★★

Simon Middlemass, 1998

Start off the large boulder just L of the tree (best to clip Br1 off the woodwork), up past 2Br & follow the weakness on natural pro to the roof, move out L at the roof to Br3 then follow the groove to the anchors.

**Tarn** Wall Going L from the Matipo Tree the crag is undercut at first with a series of grooves/corners above, 'FM' starts below the upper section of a prominent corner crack, 2Br's mark the starting wall.



**GA** Galvanised Action

24 S1 Sp 7Br ★

Tony Burnell, 1998

Starts 2m L of the tree at undercut bulge with good slot, up into corner move R & go up to the roof, at roof, move R & go directly up face, step L to a common anchor.

CCW Carl's Car Wash

26 S2 Sp 7Br

Owen Davies, 2022

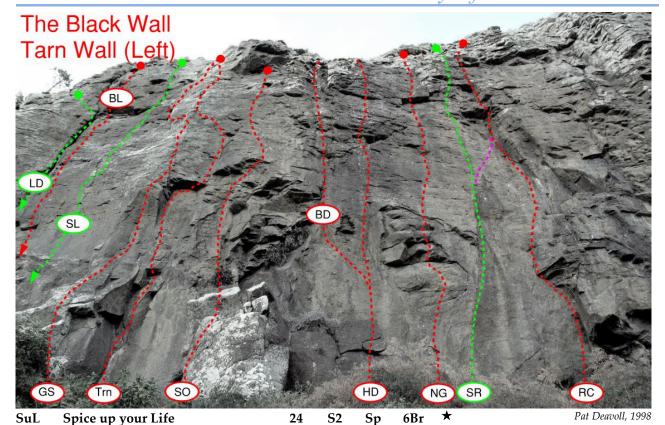
Start under the often-damp roof at 4m, move easily up to the roof crossing it with difficulty heading up steep rock to step L into the groove system follow this as it eases to the DBA.

LoR Let's off Road

4 S2 Sp 5Br

Pat Deavoll, 1998

Name after a sketch in "The Fast Show", starts below a dirty looking piece of rock as for 'SuL', make the same initial moves before going R above the roof & onto the face R of the groove finishing up the face of the buttress.



Start as 'LoR' but after Br1 keep L to go straight up the face.

The wall becomes smooth & vertical now with less features.

RC Rodeo Corner

25 S2 Sp 5Br

Pat Deavoll, 1998

At the L side of the undercut wall at a V-groove, hard moves to a big block then continue up the left facing corner next to 'SR'.

SR Steel Rain

24 S2 Sp 3Br ★★

Athol Whimp, 1991

An ode to the Gulf War. On the large section of flat wall is a left of L facing corner. Start on broken blocks/pedestal to the L & clip Br1, diagonally R then back L after Br3, wires to protect the final moves. There is a link-up shown from 'SR' into "RC' which can be climbed as a sport climb.

NG Naval Gazing

24 S1 Sp 6Br ★★

Tony Burnell, 2015

A direct line up the wall without going L into 'HD', go through the bulging naval. Using a hollow flake move up through the centre of the naval onto the face proper & Br3, after clipping Br4 tricky moves on the R leads to good holds, steep but easier climbing to the top.

HD Hugs & Drugs

23 S2 Sp 4Br

John McCallum, 1998

L of the 'NG' is a peapod shaped groove head straight up wall from this.

BD Bolting with the Dolphins

23 S3 Sp 4Br

John McCallum, 1998

A lazily bolted line, 2 of the 4 Br's are on 'HD'. Clip first Br on 'HD' to stop a ground fall, before climbing the bulges, use the last Br on 'HD'.

SO Stepping Out

23 S1 Sp 6Br ★★

Tony Burnell, 2015

A strenuous, fingery, line up the wall to the right of '*Trn*'. Start up the crack on the L side of the white pinnacle, go up the broken rib to good holds on the L before moving out R with difficulty to a good rail, thin moves up the wall onto the slab & the anchors under the roof.

Trn Tarn

24 S2 Sp 5Br ★★★

Pete Sykes,1991/Tony Burnell,2021

The original line started off the slab L of the coffin shaped recess & had only 3Br's, Br1 was at the top of the recess. Start down & R at ground level in a prominent corner, climb the corner past 2Br into the coffin, exit out of the top R corner onto the steep wall, Br 4 is on your L, after three moves go L to a large flat hold on the blunt rib head now straight up to Br 5 to a common DBA.

**GS** Game of Stones

26 S1 Sp 5Br ★

Tony Burnell, 2021

Head R across easy ground to clip Br1, hard moves to surmount the small prow & get into a blind crack,

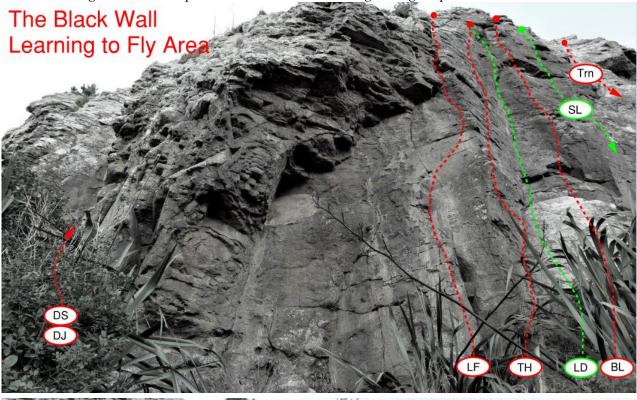
there is a reasonable hold near its top, harder moves up the face to get to good holds, step L to Br4 & straight up to DBA

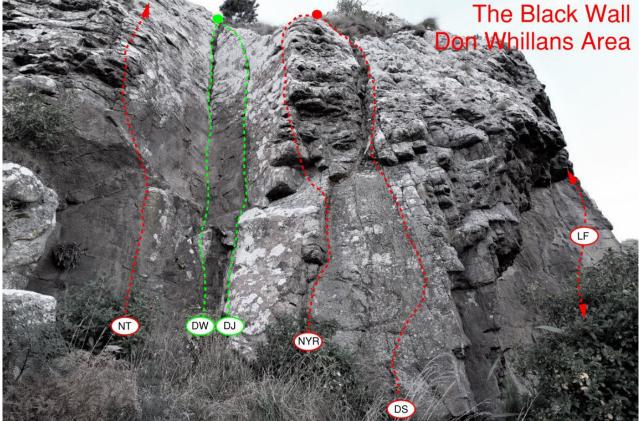
SL A Slice of Life

22 S2 Mp 3Br \*

Simon Middlemass, 1998

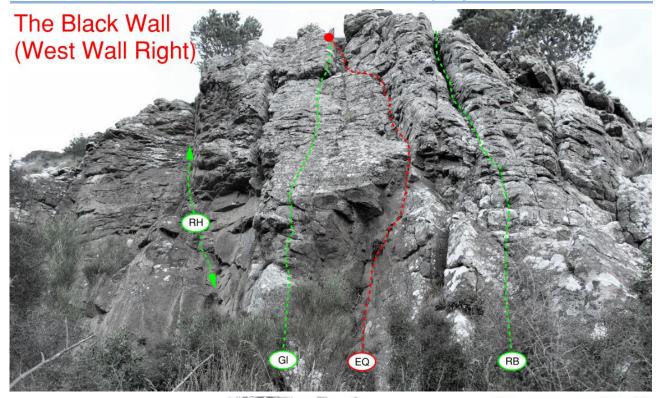
Left of '*Trn*' is a slightly concave wall, a steep start into the broken cracks. Climb delicately from either the R or the L using small wires to protect the moves to Br1, then go straight up.

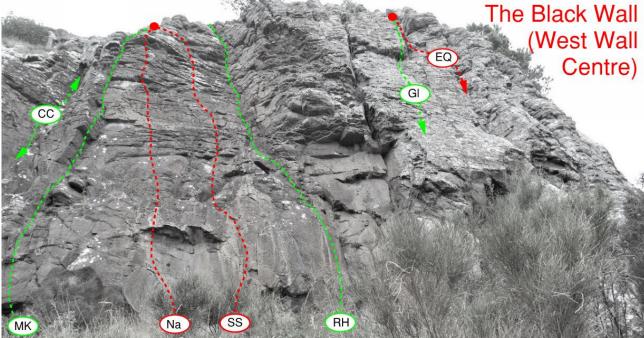




	VV C	iii (	X	ши	ey oj	Swallows. 2024		
BL Between the Lines	19	S1	Sp	6Br	**	Tony Burnell, 2015		
Start R of the corner taken by 'LD', climb the blunt arête past Br5 to the small roof at the top of the crag, clip								
Br6 then move over the roof using the top of the	he crac	k.						
LD Liaisons Dangereux	15	S2	Tr	0Br	*	Simon Middlemass, 1991		
Start just R of a steep white slab, up a small	groov	e with	n a cre	eper t	to get to	the base of the corner/flake		
crack, at the final bulge go L & up to the ancho	_			•	O			
TH Tension Head	21	S1	Sp	6Br		Richard Kimberely, 2016		
Start down low & R of the arête. Up the thin groove at the edge of the slab, then out to the arête, go R onto								
the wall then straight up to the to the anchor of	_		O		,	, 0		
Move down & L to a lower level below a capped co			route s	tarts ir	n a short	groove up the yellow wall.		
LF Learning to Fly	20	S1	Sp	7Br		Simoin Courtois, 2015		
Start to the L of the arête at a lower level, clim	ıb a sh	ort gro	-	wall	above (t	ricky) past Br4, move up to a		
crack though the arête above, pull round the bulge & step R, go back L & run out up white rock to anchor								
point.	O	•	. 0			1		
Go L again under the roof & around the arete to a	promin	ent cor	ner to -	-				
DS Desert Storm	23	S1	Sp		*	Tony Burnell, 2015		
Climb the left side of the remarkably un slabb	y wall	to gai	-	angin	g groove	e, up this to the anchors.		
NYR New Year's Revolution	23	S1	Sp	5Br	00	Tony Burnell, 2021		
Climb the corner then move L & climb the are	te on i	ts L sic	-					
DJ Dangelina Jolie	19	S1	Tr	0Br	**	Simion Courtois, 2015		
Climb the crack that splits the pinky white w	all jus	t on tl	ne R of	f the p	oromine	nt corner. The bolts & hangers		
were removed by persons unknown	,			•		e e		
DW Don Whillans Drilling	16	S1	Tr	0Br	**	Simon Courtois, 2015		
Originally a climb called Pine Tree Leads (by	Craig	Smith	in 19:	97) we	ent up t	he corner, a trad climb that		
collapsed in the 2010 earthquakes. The clean	_				_			
unknown	•					0 0,		
NT New Tricks	23	S2	Sp	5Br		Tony Burnell, 2015		
A strenuous route. Start on the left of "PTL", of	climb t	he sho	ort rib	then h	nard mo	ves up & past the second BR		
to gain the arête on the L, up this before stepp								
The West Wall From the bay where 'DJ	-		_	-				
overgrown debris slope before moving back up hill						the buse of the cruz, cross un		
RB Right Brain		_ *			ш.	Tony Billing, 1998		
The first feature is an off-width crag at the L of					rock di			
to the crack finish up this.	ena or	some	easy a	rigieu	TOCK, CII	mb the more sond bits to get		
EQ Exceeding the Quota	19	S1	Sp	5Br	*	Tony Burnell, 2015		
Originally top roped by <i>Craig Smith in 1998</i> th			-			-		
junction of the roof & the arête. Go up & R in		-						
go up the chimney.	ito trie	SHamo	w com	101	iow tius	till it runs out their step L &		
Gl Glimmer	19	S2	Мp	4Br	*	Craig Smith, 1998		
Start in an alcove below a hanging pinky whit			-			<u> </u>		
RH Rush Hour	18	<b>S2</b>	Tr	0Br	Сппппеу	Tony Billing, 1998		
					morro I			
Start in the R facing corner below a horizont		_	ne com	iei &	move L	to a good starice, follow the		
open book corner, near the top the corner gets SS Swan Song	24	S1	C <sub>m</sub>	6Br		Tony Burnell, 6/2/2024		
O			Sp		n nact P			
Start just to the L of the scoop & roof of 'Na', using thin seams move up past Br1 then head L to Br 3 & into a corner system & a ledge. Up easily on the featured face to where it steepens & exit L to the DBA on 'Na'.								
					eepens & ★	t exit L to the DBA on Na.  Tony Billing, 1998		
Na Naval	22 	S1	Sp	5Br				
Start in the smooth vertical scoop capped by a	ı Sınıall	1001,	use a p	ocket,	, move t	ip L & fourid the roof, follow		

the line of bolts to a steep finish.





Tony Billing, 1998 **Miss Kitty S2** Tr 0Br**17** Start 3m left of 'Na' almost directly below the sharp hanging arête, lay back up to ledge then climb right

side of sharp arête, at half height move around L then up to the top.

Craig Smith, 1998

S2Around L of 'MK' is a corner starting at mid height, the start of the climb is marked by two dotted lines of white lichen.

Tr

0Br

ΑE All on Edge 19 **S1** Sp 4Br Tony Burnell, 2016

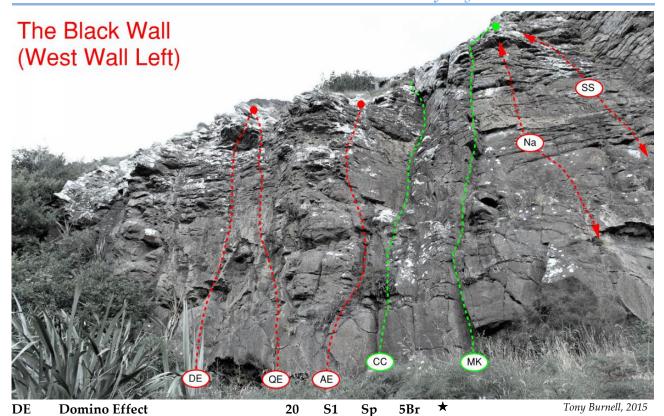
Start just L of 'CC', up the short groove then the wall just L of the arête. Tony Burnell, 2016

Tony Burnell, 2016 **OE Quota Exceeded** 21 **S1** Sp 5Br

16

Start at the R side of the big undercut with bright yellow lichen under, tricky start, then move L & up a vague groove finishing through weakness in the wall above.

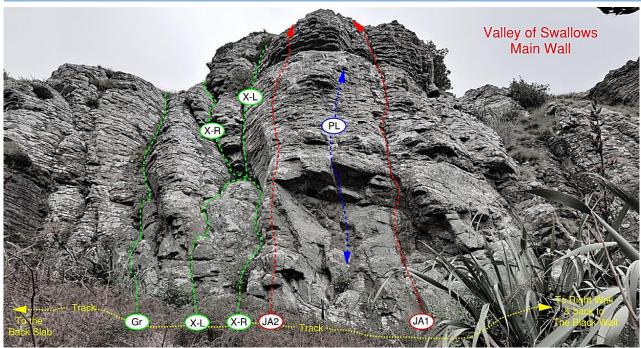
Crispy Corner



Start at the L side of the big undercut with bright yellow lichen under, up the rib into the recess then straight up using the vertical intrusion, go R through weakness in the wall above.

**Valley of Swallows** This is a small crag with three distinct areas; The Right Wall, The Main Wall & The Black Slabs.





JA1 Joe Arts 1 19 S2 Sp 5Br Joe Arts, 2000

Climb the slab to the roof at the R end, exit into the groove that leads up the face, the anchors are about 8mts up the bank after exiting. *This is possibly an old Tony Billings project*.

#### PL Potential Line

JA2 Joe Arts 2 19 S2 Sp 5Br

Start on the rib at the L side of the main roof, go up the rib & R on to the face, go up this to the short head wall, exit to the common DBA about 8mts up.

X-R X Marks the Spot (Right)

15 S3 Tr 0Br

Tony Billings, 1998

Joe Arts, 2006

At the double cracks 5mts L, climb the weakness up the L side of the wall. At the roof move L following the easy climbing

X-L X Marks the Spot (Left)

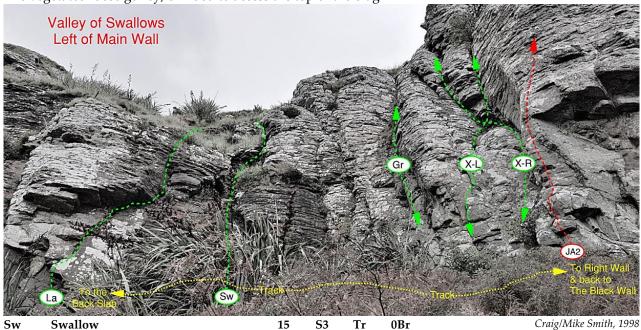
17 S3 Tr 0Br

Tony Billings, 1998

1mt to the L, follow the R trending crack to a niche, cross 'X-R' & move up into the upper crack

Gr Grovel 13 S3 Tr 0Br Tony Billings (Solo), 1998

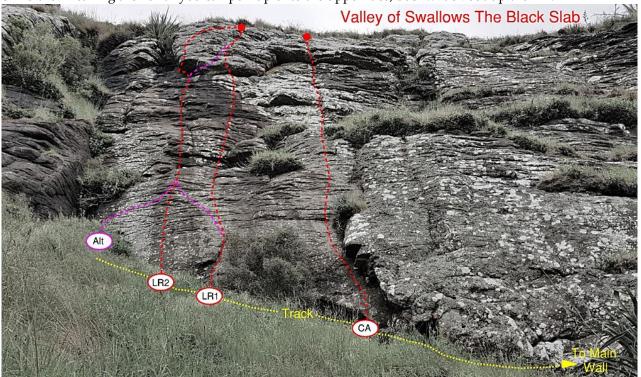
The vegetated loose gulley, climbed to access the top of the crag



About 5mts L of 'GR', climb the L facing black corner to a cave, exit out to the R & bushwhack up the hill.

LA Lardarm 18 S3 Tr 0Br Tony Billings, 1998

There is a prominent diagonal roof at the L end of the wall & some large flax bushes, start off a block & climb the R leaning arch until you can pull up onto the upper face, bushwhack out up the hill.



CA A Cut Above 18 Sp S1 5Br Tony Burnell, 2023

Start L of a R facing corner, follow the slab to the overlap, over this & up the short head wall to a lower off LR1 Lindsay's Route One 17 Sp S1 5Br Lindsay Main, 2006

On the back slab at the L side, start L of a native bush, follow the blind flake past Br1 to darker rock & easier ground, go straight up to the roof, cross this & up the short head wall & R to a DBA.

LR2 Lindsay's Route Two 19 Sp S2 4Br Lindsay Main, 2006

The L side of the back slab, head straight up the clean slab to Br1, easier climbing now to the roof & exit over the roof at the L side & move R to a DBA. Climbing in from the R or the L (shown in purple) & exiting around R at the roof (shown in purple) makes the climb about 15/16.