

TRAD CRAG

PORTHILLS CLIMBING



Trad Crag
Rev A

Tony Burnell (2024)

Cover: Bridget Sheen on Secret Squirrel's



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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.*

Trad Crag received very little attention prior to the 2010/2011 earthquakes & now sees even less, this is despite the fact that there is potential for new development here & with anchors installed could easily become a worthwhile crag. With a couple of exceptions all climbs at Trad Crag were developed by Alan Hill. The climbs are predominantly trad & anchors were not installed. The crag is located on the South side of the Summit Road overlooking Lyttelton Harbour, it is sheltered & is accessed via the Crater Rim Walkway.

Access & Restrictions Trad Crag overlooks Whakaropa (Lyttelton Harbour) & is in Tauhinu-Korokio Scenic Reserve.

| Area | GPS | Distance | Walk Time | Restrictions |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Parking Area | -43.582824, 172.74004 | - | - | Dogs should be on a lead |
| Abseil Point | -43.59052, 172.73176 | 1300 mts | 20 mins | Dogs should be on a lead |



Trad Crag is located on the south side Summit Road approximately 1.3km from either parking area. The easiest access is from the Windsor Crag parking area generally as for Crag X. Alternatively park as for

Lyttelton Rock walk along past Baby Brother, Trackside Cliff & The Sisters, before you get to Crags V, W & X you pass a promontory with a cabbage tree on the lip, you can abseil in from here.



Climbing Notes Warning, 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. Neither the first ascensionists nor the author accepts any responsibility for the condition of any fixed equipment. Do not add bolts to existing climbs.

Trad Crag is not a popular crag & it is likely that it was last climbed on pre-earthquake, treat everything as suspicious. 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
- Earthquake damaged climbs are marked in

YELLOW
RED
GREEN
PURPLE
WHITE

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used:

- #Br - Denotes the number of bolt runners or staples.
- Sp - Denotes Sport Route.
- Tr - Denotes Trad Route.
- DBA - Denotes anchor / belay station.
- So - Denotes solo route unprotectable.
- R & L - Denote R & L.

Seismic Damage There has been significant earthquake damage along this cliff, the freshly exposed rock is quite obvious.

All rock should be treated as suspect.

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- | 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. 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 & look at the topos.

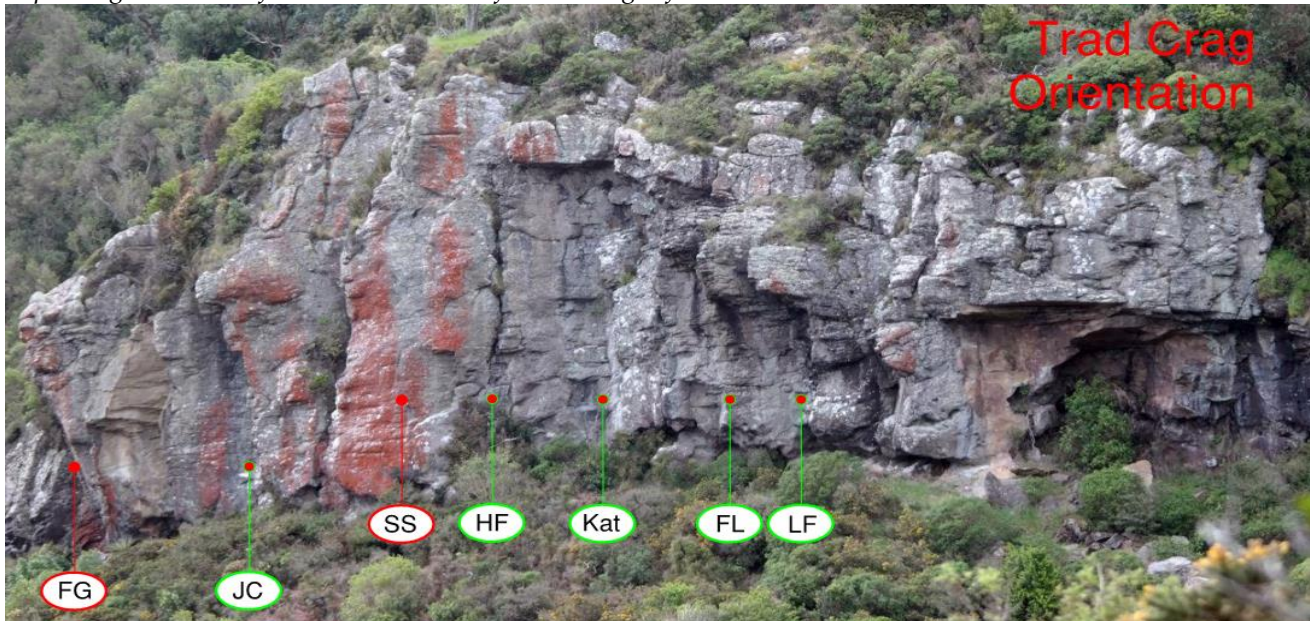
There are no anchors or lower offs in place at Trad Crag & climbers need to be able rig anchors in the bush when they top out, topping out may not always be pleasant, additionally climbers should leave the rap line in place & to carry & be able to use either Jumars or prusik loops to exit back to the top.

It may be possible to bushwhack to the west & escape via re gully at the east end of 'The Ugly Sister'.

The Climbs. The first climbs are to the climbers L of the abseil line. In two areas the bush comes up to the base of crag & gorse & broom are starting to invade the area.

The first climbs are to the climbers L of the abseil line. Remarkable there is quite a bit of scope for vertical / steep sport climbs at the crag.

Topo images are taken from close in & therefore the crag is foreshortened.



SD Swallow Dive

24 S3

Tr

0Br

Alan Hill, 1998

At the very L side of the crag in the bush is a large, black overhang, at the R side climb the steep wall moving L onto the upper slab, head up & L to finish.

BB Blood & Bone 18 S3 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1998

Just R of the roof where 'SD' climbs is a vague, lower angled, red pyramid. Climb to the apex before moving L into the a corner & exiting out to the L.

FG Finger Ripping Good 26 S2 Sp 5Br ★ Tony Burnell, 2004

This line takes the L side of the red rowler like feature that is undercut at its base.

Pull onto the lower wall & climb the break, move R & go up the L trending crack to gain a standing position on a pedestal, move up & back L to the arête & an easy finish.

SL Snakes & Ladders 19 S3 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1998

To the R is a collapse cave. From the L side make your way up into the cleft & follow this to the top.

Moving left there has been significant rock fall from the 2010/2011 earthquakes that has made the next two lines unclimbable, although the start of 'PS' still exists.

AD A Dose of Ground Up 21 Alan Hill, 1998

PS Perpetual Struggle Against the Eunuchs 21 Alan Hill, 1998



JC Juan Cornetto 19 S3 Tr 0Br ★ Alan Hill, 1998

There has been some rockfall at the top of this climb & it should be cleaned & inspected prior to climbing. Climbs the L facing corner capped by an overhang. Go up the corner & then go L under overhang to exit up over a damaged area of rock.

FC Feet of Clay 16 S3 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1998

Start as for 'JC' but after the first 5mts move around to the R & head diagonally R to join 'Lib' finish up this route.

Lib Libration 18 S3 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1998

Start to the L of the steep gully with trees in it. Take the easiest line up the slabbier rock to joining 'FC' where it traverses across the face, move R into the gully & finish up this.

SS Secret Squirrel's 24 S2 Sp 4Br ★ Tony Burnell, 1999

Takes a line up the steep red wall directly below the cabbage trees. A short wall leads to a ledge, move up the short corner & surmount the roof at Br3. Continue straight up with a rounded vertical crack as a guide



HF **Hit Me with a Flower** 20 S3 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1998

To the R of 'SS' is wide crack, this is 'HF' climb the crack.

BM **Brass Monkey** 18 S3 Tr 0Br ★ Alan Hill, 1998

As for 'Kat', but finishing L under the roof (crux).

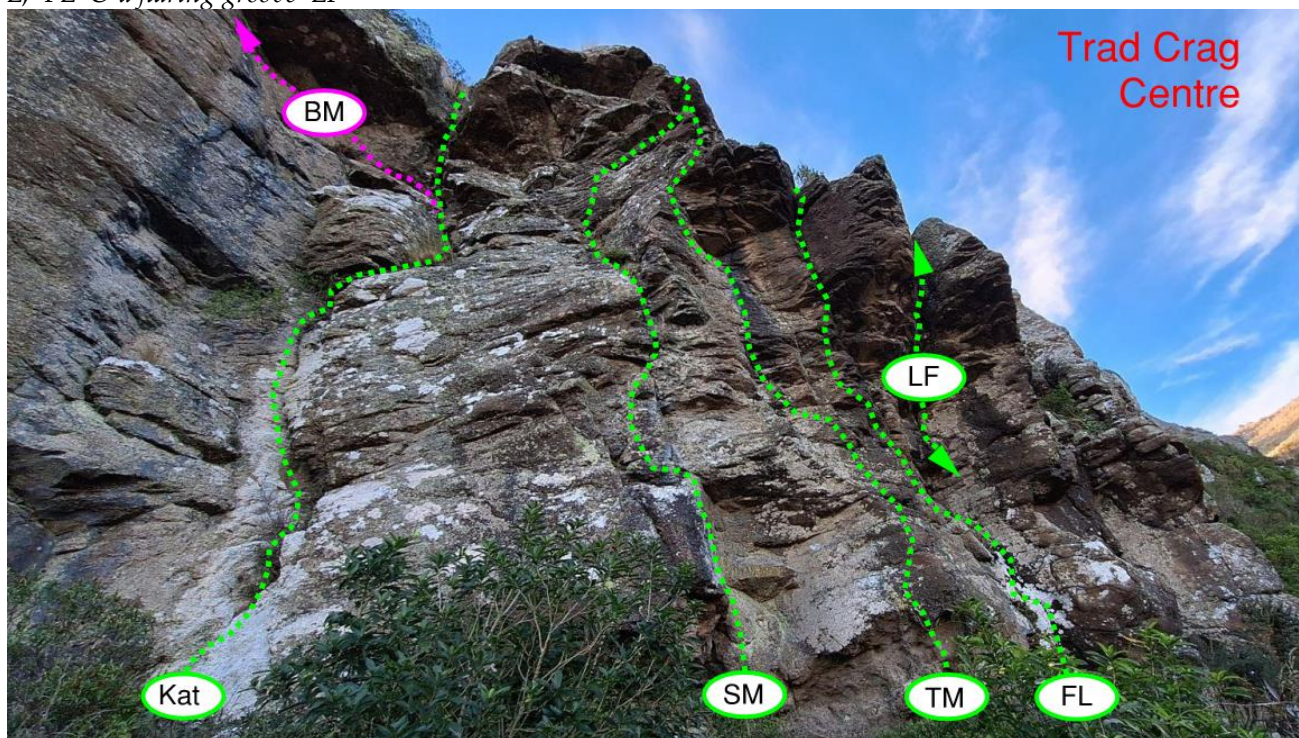
Kat **Katzenclappe** 20 S3 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1998

The next feature is an open corner that goes up to an exit groove right end of a long roof end. Head up the corner to the jammed block, go R around the block & up to the roof, exit direct up the continuation.

SM **Smoked Muscle** 21 S3 Tr 0Br ★ Alan Hill, 1998

Climbs the vague rib past a small roof on the R that forms a square cut recess, follow the vague weakness through slightly steeper ground, cross the wall going R to exit around the R end of the rooves.

The rooves at the top of the crag are now split by a prominent flared groove on the R & a corner with a crack on the L, 'FL' & a flaring groove 'LF'



TM Tonton Macoute's 23 S3 Tr 0Br ★ Alan Hill, 1998

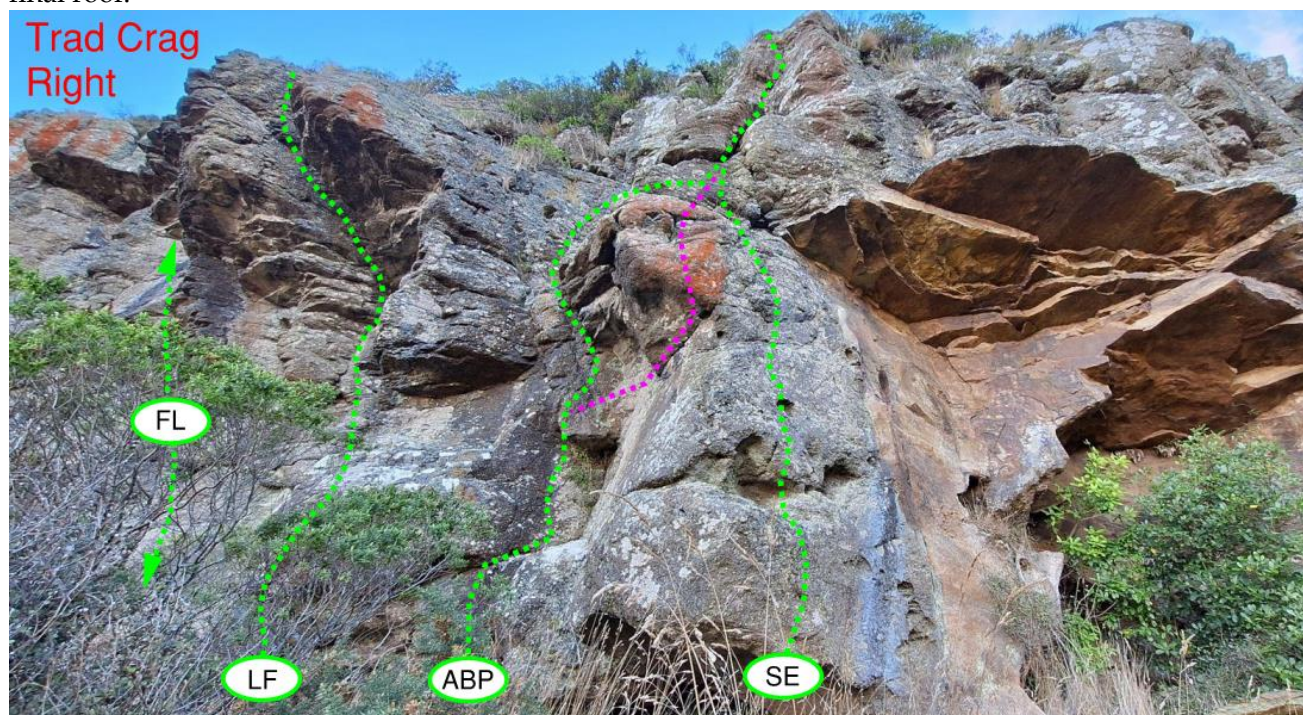
Start at the R side of the square cut recess, an undercut start gets you on to a slabbier wall, move up trending L into a black streak, follow this to the L end of the roof, before pulling through to exit.

FL Fifty Lashes 23 S3 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1998

Takes the prominent corner crack at the top of the crag. An undercut start to gain the seam that heads up the steepening wall into the clean yellow rock R of the black streak, pull into the jam crack to exit.

LF Life in the Freezer 17 S3 Tr 0Br Hamish Reid, 1998

The weakness R of the large roof with V notch, move up into the recess then the bulge above before the final roof.



Moving R there was a large roof which collapsed in the 2010 / 2011 earthquakes, at the L side of the collapse is a vaguely green bulging was the corner that 'SE' bridged up, this is now a face climb & considerably harder than the original grade.

Just to the L is a bay with the reddish coloured nose on the R& a blunt rib on its R.

ABP All Aboard the Bloated Pigs 22 S3 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1998

To the R is a small bay with a reddish nose on the R, climb up the step & go L or R around the red nose, finish out R up an open groove.

SE See no Evil 19 S3 Tr 0Br Alan Hill, 1998

R again & L of what was the large roof is a blunt rib (originally a corner) smear your way up the rib to join 'ABP' above the nose, finish up this. The climb now bares little or no resemblance to the original line climbed in 1998.