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**PORTHILLS CLIMBING**



**Windsor Crag  
Rev A**

**Tony Burnell (2024)  
Cover shot by Clayton Garbes**



Thanks to **Conor Boyd IT** for creating & hosting the website ([www.porthillsclimbing.nz](http://www.porthillsclimbing.nz)).

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

**General.** *The Port Hills are home to rare species of geckos & native flora & fauna take care not to disturb wildlife or damage native plants, do not cut down any native trees or shrubs.*

*Inclusion of any climbing area or climb in this guidebook does not mean that there is any R of public access.*

The crag is noted as Windsor Castle on NZ Topo Map ([www.topomap.co.nz](http://www.topomap.co.nz)) & Sumner Ridge on Google Maps, it is located just east of Richmond Hill Road below the Trig Point & is east facing, the crag is exposed to the east & southern winds. The crag is small &, primarily, an instructional crag for teaching multi-pitch climbing transitions although all routes can be climbed as single pitch. Transitioning at mid-point anchors introduces a further stage in climbing which increases risk, climb safe & double check everything.

There are practise anchors at the righthand side of the crag & observation anchors on top of the crag. Do not remove any insitu equipment. To preserve the vegetation at the top of the crag please abseil or lower off the insitu anchors.

The climbs established here was carried out by Ray Button on behalf of Ara / Te Pūkenga Institute of Canterbury in conjunction with Christchurch City Council Rangers. Initial development started in 2016 & was completed in 2023.

Christchurch City Council Rangers have stated that further development is prohibited.

**Access & Restrictions.** Permission is not required to access this crag. For driving directions to the parking use the GPS coordinates below.

Area	GPS	Distance	Walk Time	Restrictions
Parking Area	-43.582824, 172.740040	-	-	<u>Permission is not required for this crag</u>
Crag	-43.579837, 172.746115	800mts	10 min	<u>Dogs to be on a lead</u>

From the parking area, cross the stile & take the righthand farm track going through a gate by the cattle grid, continue down the track, at the next fork stay right & after 20mts go through a second gate, when the track veers left, head to the fence corner & go over the stile heading towards the trig, walk past the trig point & take the rock stair way that leads down to the north end of the crag.



**Climbing Notes** *Climbing is Dangerous - By choosing to climb here you must accept responsibility for your*

# Port Hills, Windsor Crag:2024

own personal safety, you must make your own decision regarding the condition of any fixed equipment. Neither the first ascensionists or the landowners, or the author accept any responsibility for the condition of any fixed equipment.

Routes are described from Right to Left from the point at which you arrive at the crag. The route identifier at the bottom of each climb shown on the topos is normally that of the earliest recorded route. 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 climbs are all short therefore route lengths are not shown. Climb with care, test all holds before you pull on them & wear a helmet. It is a good idea to take a brush & clean the routes, it will be appreciated by the next visitor to the crag.

Routes are described R to L i.e. from the point at which you arrive at the crag.

Tracks are marked in **YELLOW**

Sport routes are marked in **RED**

Variations are marked in **BLUE**

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used

Sp - Denotes Sport Route.

R & L - Denote R & L.

#Br - Denotes the number of bolts.

DBA – Denotes anchor station/lower off point.

**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 & 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

The grades given here assume that the climber is climbing on-sight & placing gear on lead.

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.



# Port Hills, Windsor Crag:2024

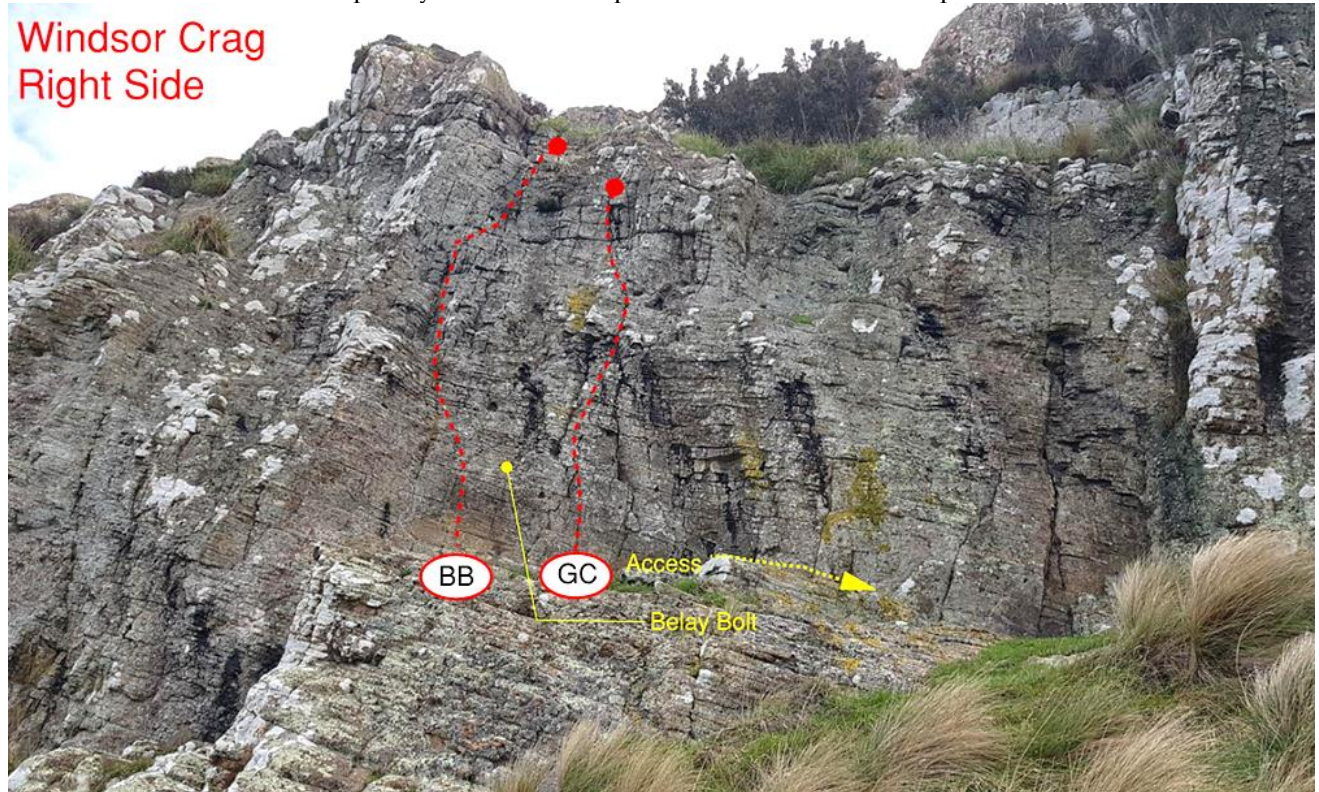
Bar Bartizan

17 S2 Sp 4Br

Ray & Maggie Button, 2016

The first line of bolts, move up the yellow wall to a pedestal then climb the steep rib to a DBA.

## Windsor Crag Right Side



GC Glass Ceiling

15 S1 Sp 3Br

Ray & Maggie Button, 2016

The right most of two lines of bolts starting off the ledge, climb the twin seams to a nose & patches of yellow lichen move R & up to AS.

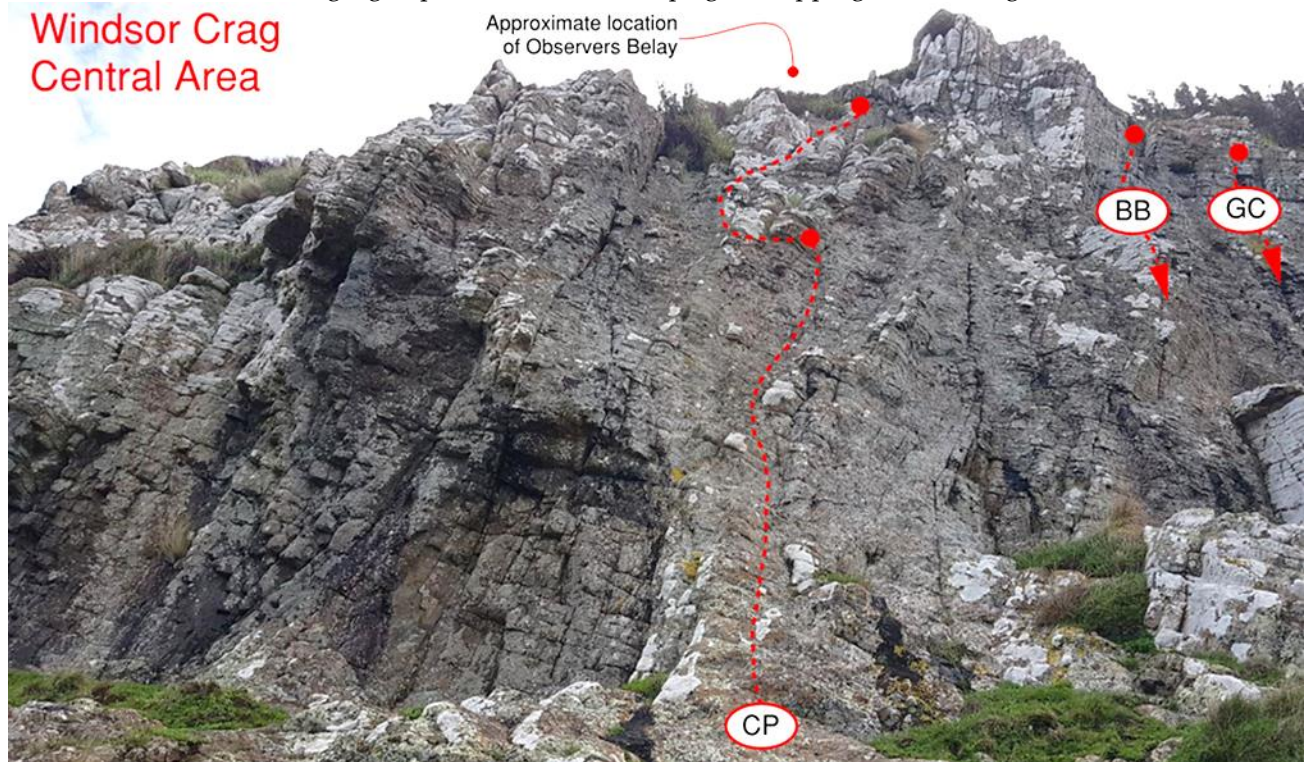
BB Blue Blood

15 S1 Sp 4Br

Ray & Maggie Button, 2016

Start at the L end of the ledge, go up into a recess then up again stepping R & heading to the AS.

## Windsor Crag Central Area



# Port Hills, Windsor Crag:2024

**CP Concert Pitch**

**2p S1 Sp**

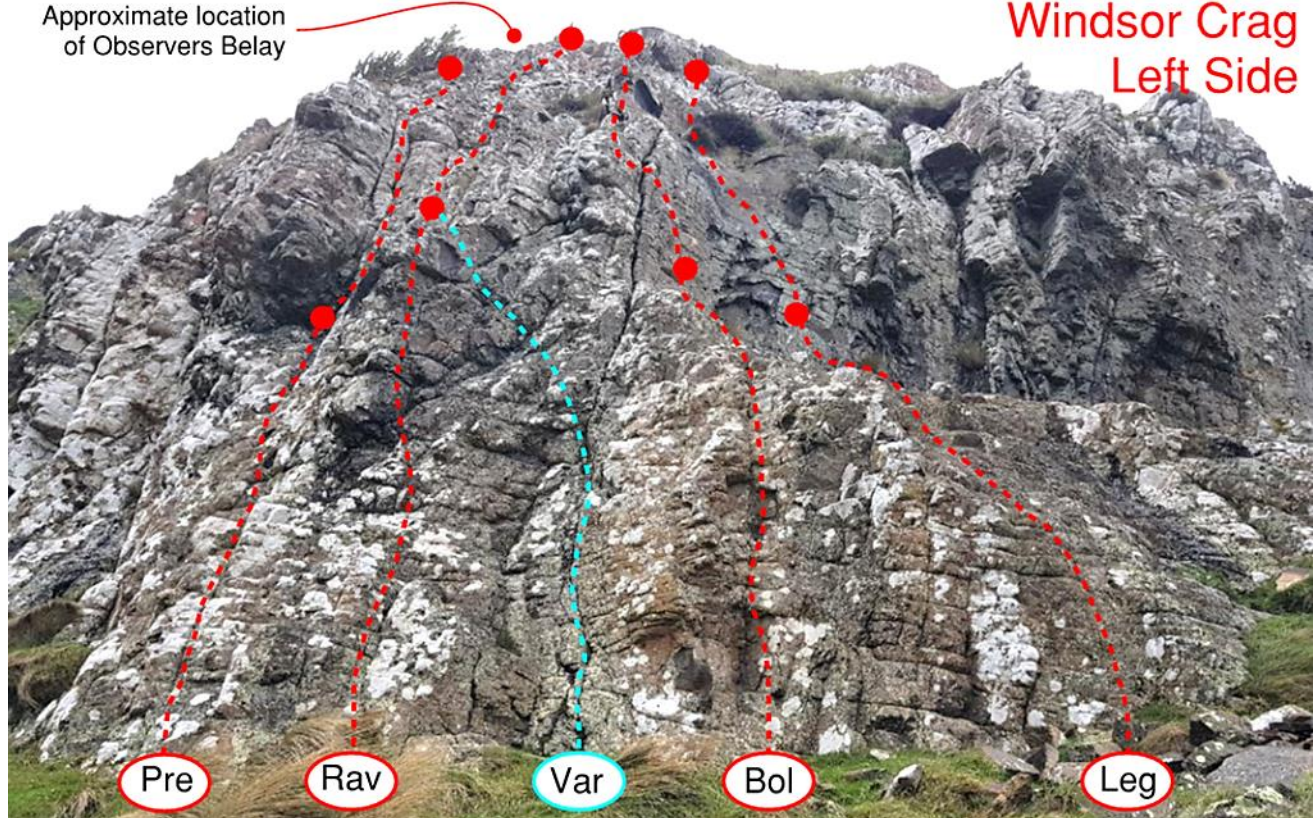
*Ray Button, 2022*

**Pitch 1 – 16 – 3Br.** Start R of the shallow cave, climb the slabby rib & shallow groove to a DBA.

**Pitch 2 – 16 – 4Br.** Head out L past a Br into the next groove system, work your way up & slightly R to a second DBA.

Approximate location  
of Observers Belay

**Windsor Crag  
Left Side**



**Leg Legato**

**2P S1 Sp**

*Mike Atkinson, 2023*

**Pitch 1 – 6 – 2Br.** Womble up the easy angled slab to DBA.

**Pitch 2 – 13 – 4Br.** Move up & go diagonally L across a scar & skirt L around vegetation to the DBA.

**Bol Bolero**

**2P S1 Sp**

*Mike Atkinson, 2023*

**Pitch 1 – 14 – 3Br.** Start in the shallow R facing corner move up the wall to a mid-point DBA just R of the crack & arete.

**Pitch 2 – 12 – 4Br.** Head straight up then cross the crack heading L to the top of a rib, before skirting some vegetation to get to the DBA.

**Var Variation**

**14 S2 Sp 4Br**

*Freya O'Donoghue, 2023*

An alternative start to 'Rav' ending at DBA-1, start a metre or so R of the weakness, up the wall veering L across the crack system to the mid-point belay of 'Rav'.

**Rav Ravel's**

**2P S2 Sp**

*Mike Atkinson/Dave Irwin, 2023*

**Pitch 1 – 16 – 4Br.** Climb the green lichen covered rock to a Br at 5mts head up the steeper face above to a DBA on a ledge out L.

**Pitch 2 – 12 – 4Br.** Step R & climb more easily to the top DBA.

**Pre Prelude**

**2P S2 Sp**

*Ray Button, 2023*

**Pitch 1 – 10 – 2Br.** An easy start up s stepped features to a mid-point DBA in the shallow cave.

**Pitch 2 – 12 – 4Br.** Step out R & go up the shallow chimney, at the of the chimney easier climbing leads to a DBA on the L near the flax.