

W O B B L Y W A L L

Port Hills Climbing



Wobbly Wall
Rev G
Tony Burnell (2021)

General

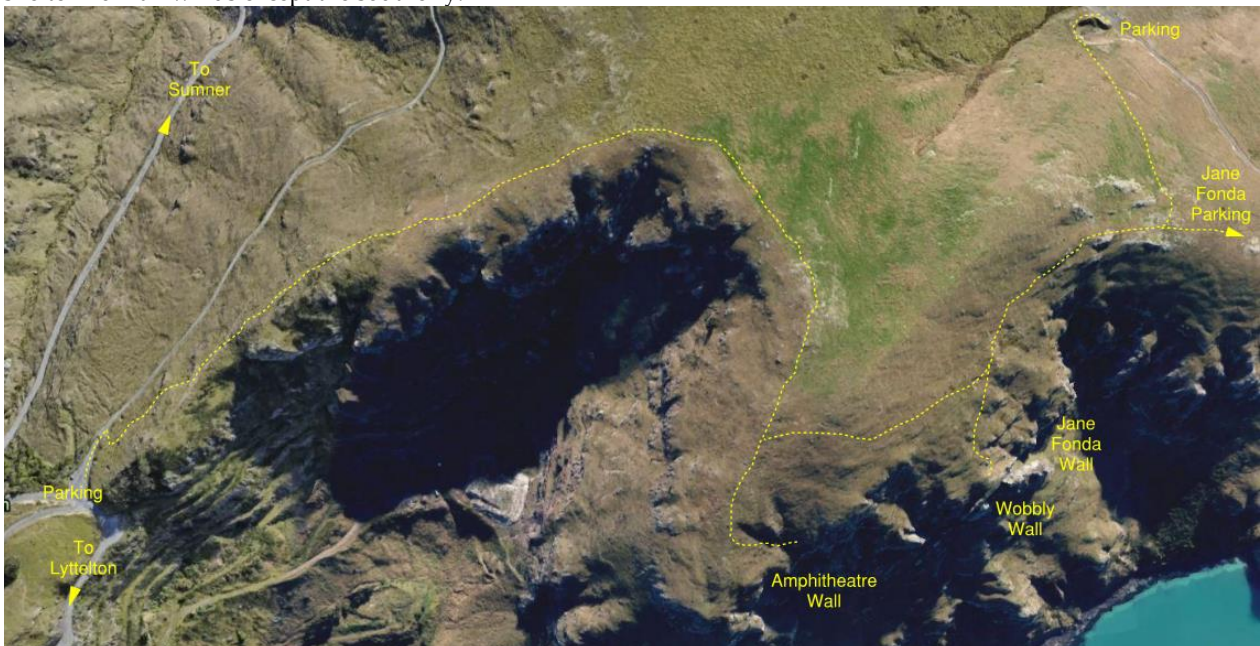
Wobbly Wall appears to have been discovered, ignored, rediscovered, explored (producing three climbs), forgotten again, discovered again by Neil Silverwood (producing five climbs) forgotten then rediscovered this time by Simon Courtois & Tony Burnell. Believe it or not Wobbly Wall is a more curvaceous venue than Jane Fonda & has its own unique style of climbing.

The crag is covered with a fine layer of variously, green, white & pink lichen, which is almost impossible to remove, & so the pallet becomes the texture you have to work with, albeit somewhat disconcerting at times. The crag is around 20/22 metres high & uniquely featured, full of differing bulbous blocks providing an unusual style of climbing.

All the routes are bolted, some better than others, the 3 original routes that were climbed in 1992 had chain anchors & protection that looked really corroded, all bolts & anchors have now been replaced, although some of the existing rusted hangers have not been removed. The second wave of routes are better protected than the first wave, this second wave of routes must have been climbed just before the earthquakes as some of them (not on the Wobbly Wall) have sustained significant damage.

Location & Access

The Wobbly Wall is located around to the west of Jane Fonda in its own natural amphitheatre which provides good shelter from all winds except the southerly.



These crags are located in Scarborough Farm Park Reserve overlooking Whakaropa (Lyttelton Harbour).

Restrictions: Dogs must be on a lead

Permission: None required

GPS: -43.5952826, 172.7623832 **Distance:** 880mts **Walk Time:** 15mins **Ownership:** Christchurch City Council

Option 1 - To access the top of the crag, drive along the Summit Road from Evans Pass & park at the old quarry on the R, approximately 500 mts before the parking spot for Jane Fonda, there are 2 power poles with cones on top. Walk up a short 4wd track R of the quarry & go through/over the gate, turn L & follow the fence line till you pick up a well-defined sheep track which bisects the mtb track at a marker post then peters out, keep going aiming to the L end of some small bluffs with a water tank, keep L & join the walking track, cross the stile & continue along the track past the danger "Rock Fall" notice. Follow the track till you come to the 7th trail marker post. Just after passing the 7th post leave the track & go down past a rock & across a small slip towards a flax bush; continue angling downhill keeping a flat rocky promontory on your L. The ground flattens out & you will find a few waratahs hammered into the ground. There are anchor chains in the small wall above the crag & if you search around you will find a second anchor point to the true L & slightly higher. Rappel down taking care at the top as there is the possibility that you could dislodge loose rock & earth.

Option 2 – (Not Shown) You can also access the base of the crag by walking in as for Jane Fonda then continue downhill & around the spur before heading back uphill to 'Wobbly Wall'.

Climbing Notes

Climbing is inherently 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 or the author accept any responsibility for the condition of any fixed equipment.

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 best access is by abseil & you can exit easily from any of the climbs back to the top. All routes are bolted, some not as well as others, but this reflects the period when the first ascents were done. None of the climbs exceed 20 metres & therefore the route length is immaterial. Routes are described from L to R & all but one of the climbs are bolted & there are chain or ring anchors at the top of each climb



Tracks are marked in

YELLOW

Sport routes are marked in

RED

Trad or mixed protection climbs are marked in

GREEN

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used:

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.

Br – Denotes Bolt Runner or Staple

Denotes number of Br

Sp – Denotes Sports Climb

Tr – Denotes Trad Climb

MP – Denotes Mixed Protection

So – Denotes Solo Climb

R - Denotes 'Right'

L - Denotes 'Left'

A circle denotes a known fixed anchor point

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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

The Ewebank grading system used here provides little in the way of information & is 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. The grades given here assume no prior knowledge & gear placed on lead.

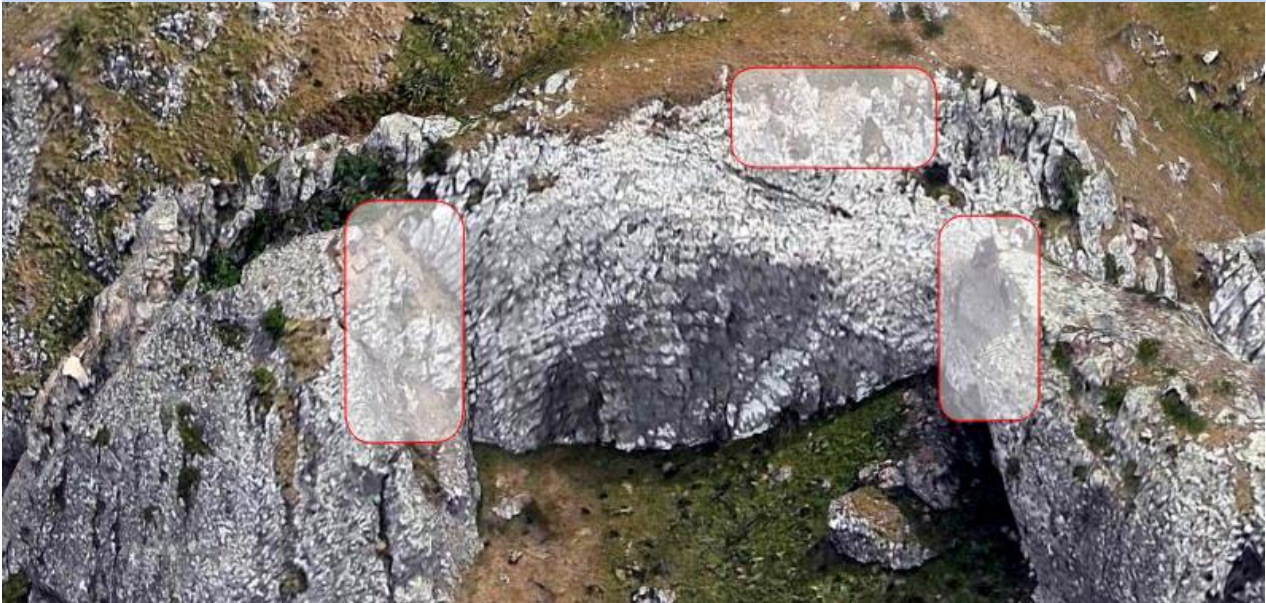
As far as possible all known routes have been included in this guide. If you want to know where a route goes read the text as well as looking at the topos.

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.

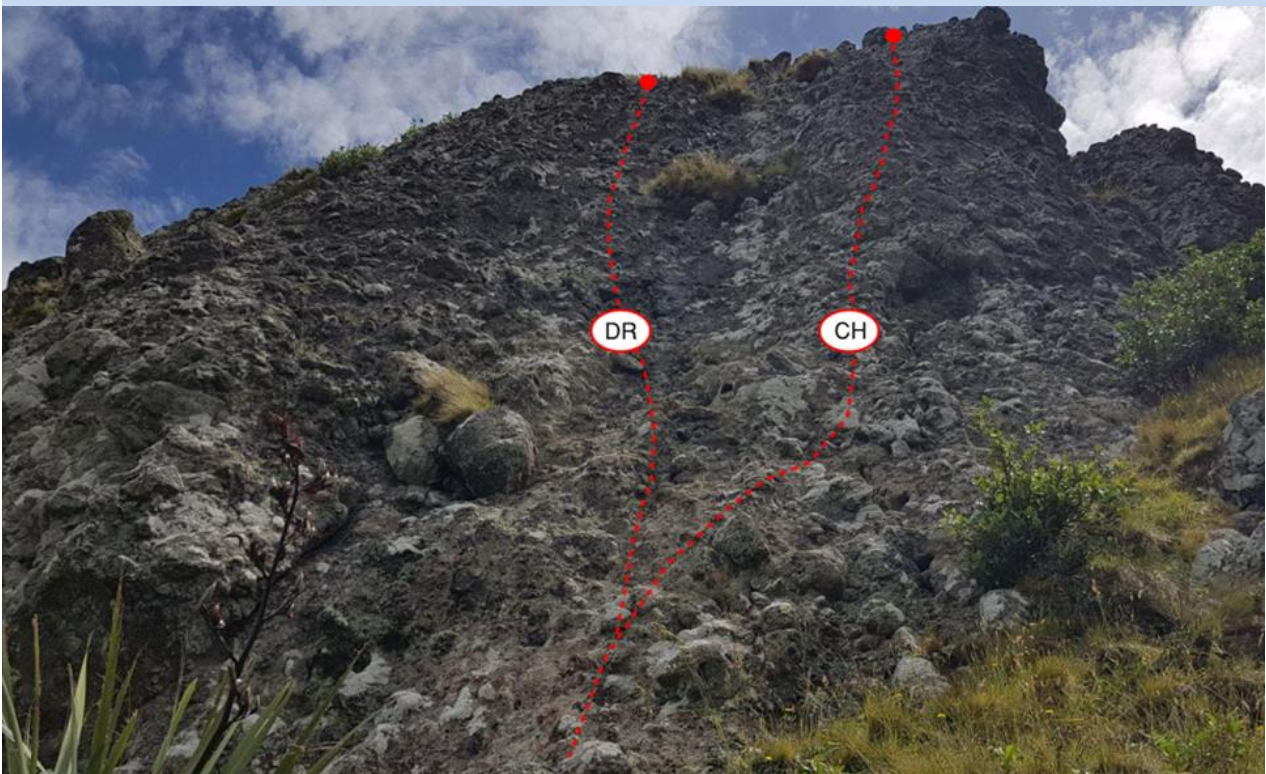
Climbers should remember that this additional suffix to the grade is my opinion & in no way scientific, gear can fail, rock can fail & any fall can result in injury.

Seismic



There is an obvious water worn groove with black streaks about 6.0mts from the L side of the crag, this is the start of 'Casting Out Demons', just R of this is a short R curving groove, this is the start of 'Fear & Loathing'.

The Asteroid Belt



When looking at the main wall the Asteroid Belt is the buttress down low & L of the corner climb 'Bootleg' there are two climbs on this highly featured black, cinder like wall. Dubious holds on dubious rock, but on the plus side there are lots of bolts.

DR Dirty Rotten Chicken Town

16 S2 Sp 8Stp

Joe Arts, 2020

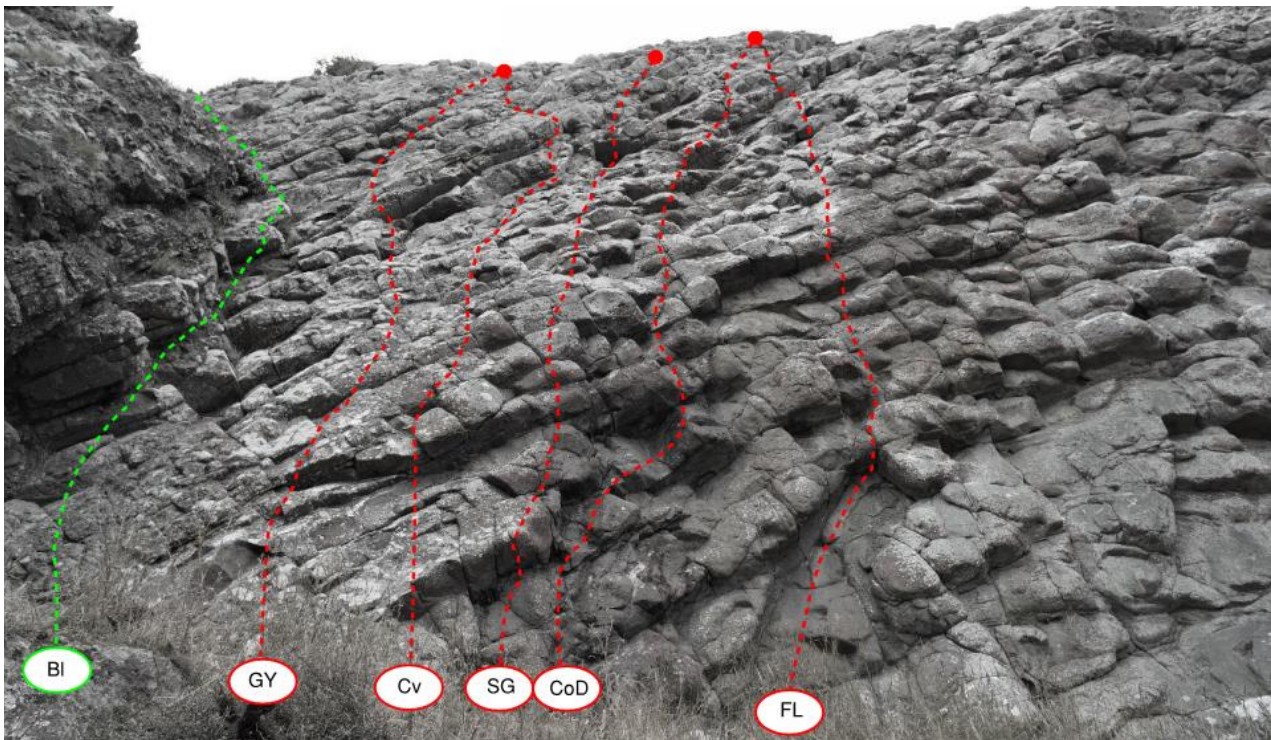
The L line of staples on the featured face.

CH Chicken Head Soup

16 S2 Sp 8Stp

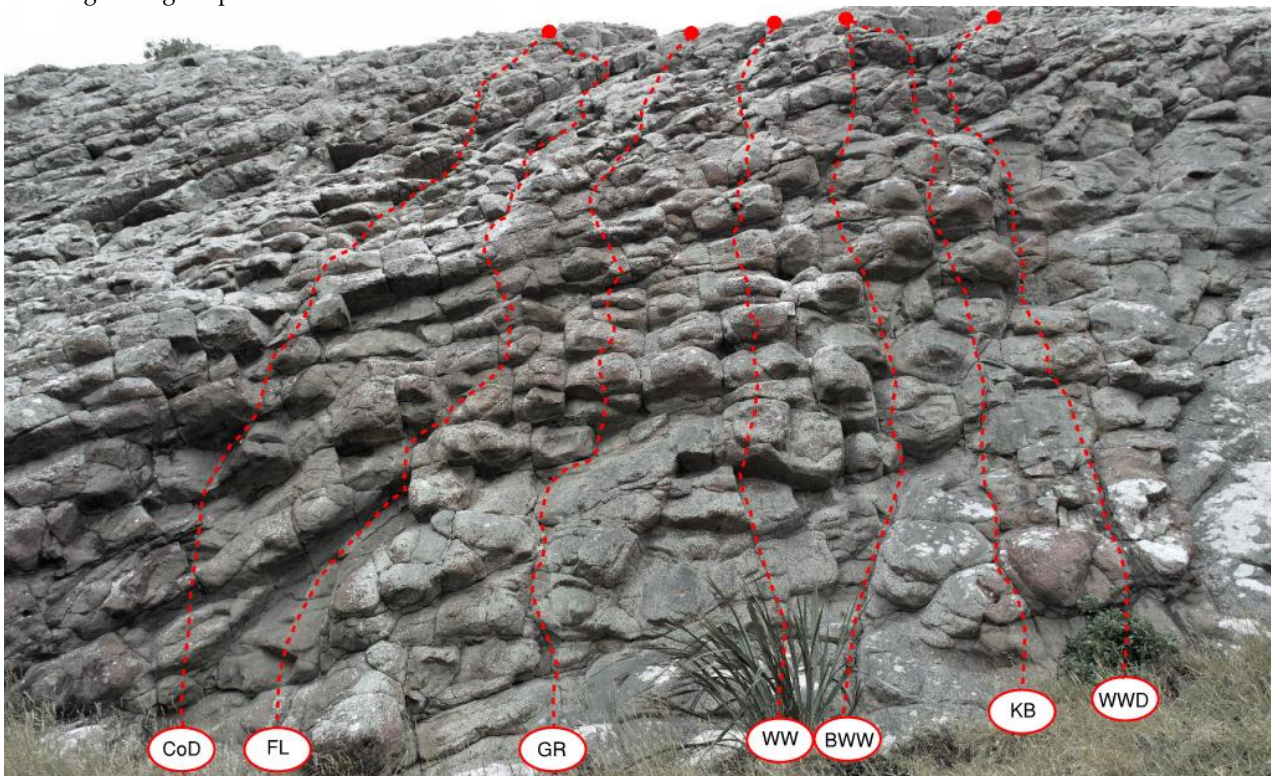
Joe Arts, 2020

The R line of staples on the featured face.



Bl **Bootleg** 11 S3 So 0Br *Lindsay Main*
 Climb up the L end/corner of Wobbly Wall it is not recommended.

GY **Golden Years** 20 S1 Sp 0Br ★ *Simon Courtois, 2016*
 Start about 2 mts R of the corner at the end the crag, straight up the wall past 4Br, deviate around to the L then come back & go straight up to the anchor chains.



Cv **Conservative** 20 S1 Sp 9Br ★ *Rex Arthur, 2010*
 Start about 4mts R of the corner that forms the end of the crag, go straight up over two overlaps to Br5, move R & up to cross the larger overlaps before heading up & L to the anchor chains.

SG **Style & Grace** 18 S1 Sp 7Br ★ *Tony Burnell, 2015*
 Start about 1.5mts L of 'CoD'; take a direct line up the crag finishing to the R of 'Cv'.

CoD **Casting Out Demons** 18 S2 Sp 5Br ★ *John Reizinger, 1992*
 Originally sporting only 3BR there must have been some subsequent unknown additions, or the guide had it wrong.

Starts up the great looking water-stained groove, the climb had great friction, follow the, slightly, R trending line. Finish over a small overlap & up to the anchors.

FL Fear & Loathing 20 S2 Sp 7Br ★ Neil Silverwood, 2010

Start just R of 'CoD', at a short green wall capped with an inverted 'V' & follow a fairly parallel line. Once you exit the 'V' go back L & continue up to the overlap, pull through this &, bizarrely, head L to the anchors of 'CoD'.

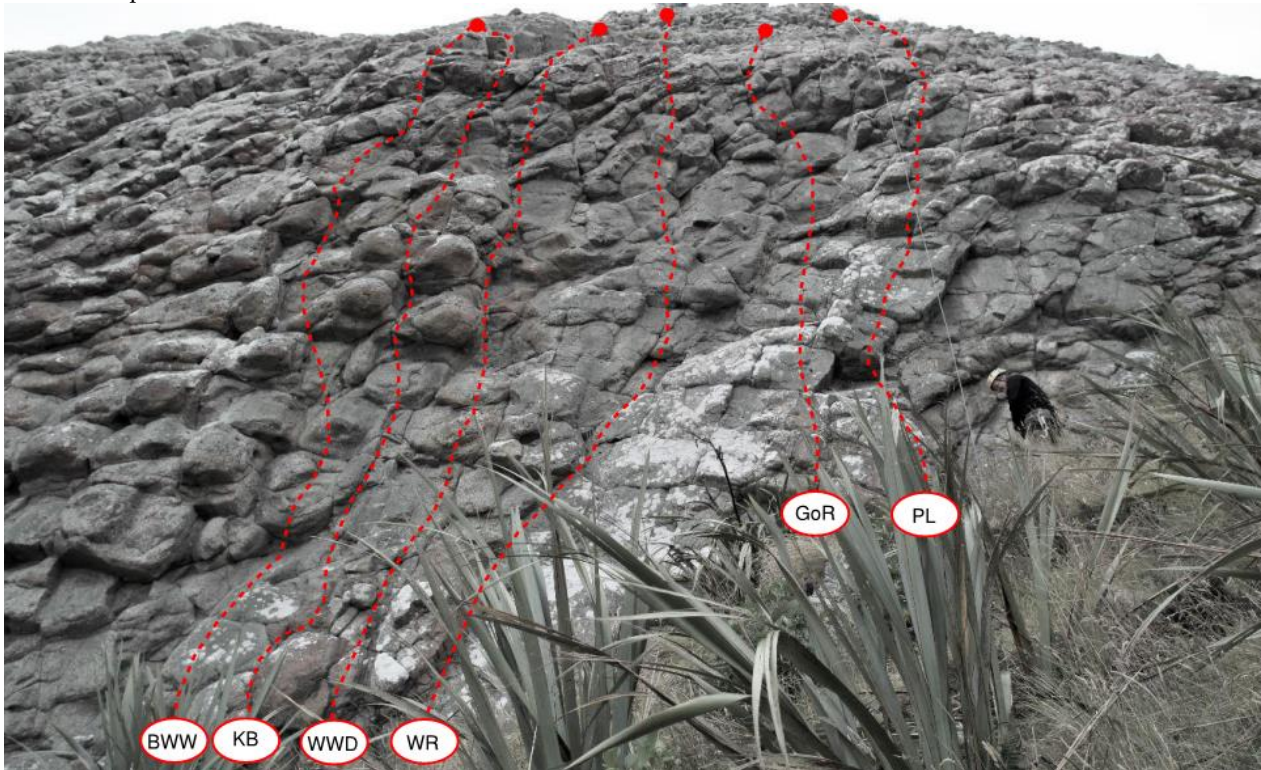
Gr Grounded 21 S1 Sp 8Br ★ Simon Courtois, 2015

Start about 1.5mts L of COD; take a direct line up the crag finishing to the R of 'FL'. Tony Burnell, Dec 2015

A great parallel line to WWW, interestingly the climb has about 4 crux moves scattered over the length of the route. Start just L of the first flax, there is patch of vivid yellow lichen at about 5.0mts. Go up a short corner & onto the slab by the 2nd BR. Up & over the overlap past the 3rd BR, carry on directly up to the more insecure white rock & the final crux topping out.

WW The Wibbly Wobbly Way 21 S1 Sp 7Br ★ Tony Burnell, 2015

Start by the first flax just left of a large, brown, bulbous feature, up the green slab then the steeper section of the wall using layaways & hidden holds before the angle eases, then follow a shallow groove before going over the overlap to an anchor up the white slab.



BWW Bills Words of Wisdom 22 S2 Sp 5Br ★ John Reizinger, 1992

Start up the green mottled wall just R of the first flax bush & just R of the start of 'WW'. Climb straight up to some bulbous brown features, pass these on the L then go up on the R of a seam to the final overlap, cross this & up past a Br to the anchors.

KB Kill Bill 22 S1 Sp 6Br ★ Tony Burnell, 2019

Start immediately L of the large, brown bulbous feature. Climb straight up through the groove in the bulbous features, at the final overlap go up & L across the white rock past the last Br on 'BWW', to share the same anchor.

WWD Why Won't You Die 20 S2 Sp 5Br ★ Neil Silverwood, 2010

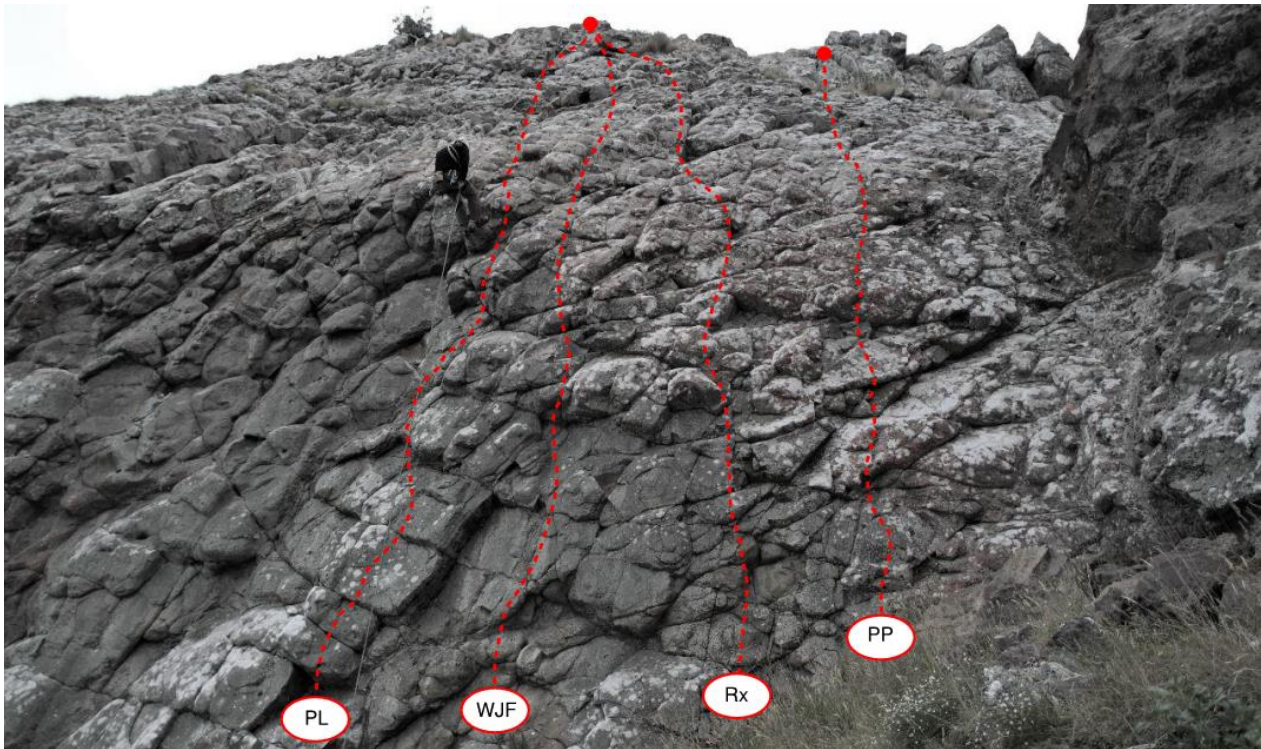
Start R of a bush & L of the curving green arch, up past 2Br to a short R facing corner, wander around the weakness first slightly L then slightly R, then go up to the roof, once over the lip move L towards the final Br then on to the anchor of 'GOR'.

WR White Rushing 22 S1 Sp 6Br ★ Tony Burnell, 2015

Start by the brown corner R of the flax & below a R leaning corner at 4mts. Move up to the leaning corner then step L & go up to the roof, pull over the roof & finish up the white slab above.

Gor Gifts of Revelation 20 S2 Sp 3Br ★ John Reizinger, 1992

Start just L of the flax bush close to the foot of the crag. Go straight up the mottled green & white wall to the 2nd Br, angle L to a 3rd Br below the final overlap. Over the bulge to finish up the slabby wall to an anchor.



- PL Plumb Line** 21 S1 Sp 7Br ★ *Tony Burnell, 2015*
 Start about 1.5mts R of 'GOR' below the L leaning corner, a direct line up the crag finishing at the anchor of 'WJF'. The crux is getting up to & past Br5.
- WJF Wobbling Like Jane Fondas Bingo Wings** 22 S1 Sp 8Br ★ *Tony Burnell, 2015*
 Start about 3mts L of 'WJF' at a short L facing corner, a direct line up the crag finishing at the anchor of 'WJF'. The crux is getting up to & past Br3.
- Rx Rexona** 19 S1 Sp 8Br ★ *Rex Arthur, 2010*
 Starts just to the L of where the pinky white rock comes, almost, all the way to the ground below a difficult start up to a large, square shaped scar. Move up past 2Br onto the pinky rock, keep going up & cross a small overlap just below the 6th Br, carry on angling slightly R to the anchor chains.
- PP Peer Pressure** 20 S1 Sp 7Br ★ *Simon Courtois, 2016*
 Start about 2 mts R of the corner at the end the crag, straight up the wall past 4Br, deviate around to the L then come back & go straight up to the anchor chains.