



WUNDERBAR WALL

Port Hills Climbing

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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 damage native plants.

Wunderbar Wall is situated just outside the Port of Lyttelton between Tauhinu-Korokio Reserve & Buckleys Bay Reserve, access is off Brenchley Road via the Chalmers Walking Track. Apart from some minor earthquake damaged the rock is pretty solid. All routes, except 'Fish Don't Need Bicycles', are now fully bolted & most have individual anchor stations. Wunderbar Wall was developed in its entirety by 'Neil Sloane' over a ten-year period starting in 1992.

Climbing Notes

Neither the first ascensionists nor the author accepts any responsibility for the condition of any fixed equipment.

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. 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. Several anchor stations were added/replaced in 2021 courtesy of the Port Hills 300 & Aspiring Safety Ltd.

Wunderbar Wall is popular in summer especially with beginner / intermediate groups, the crag is compact & relatively undamaged by the 2010/2011 earthquakes. 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 lines in

YELLOW

RED

GREEN

Blue

PURPLE

The following Abbreviations / Definitions have been used:

#Br - Denotes the number of bolt runners

Sp - Denotes Sport Route.

Tr - Denotes Trad Route.

○ - Denotes chain link

Mp - Denotes Mixed Protection Route (bolts & trad).

So - Denotes solo route unprotectable.

R & L - Denote Right & Left.

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 above grading systems provide 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.

If you are familiar with the period when the first ascent was done & the person who did it then you will have some knowledge of their ability & their style of climbing (bold, hard grading, soft grading, etc).

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 actually goes read the text as well as looking at the topos.

Location & Access

When coming from Christchurch turn L out of the road tunnel onto Norwich Quay, take the 3rd L onto Oxford Street go up the hill past the Sumner Rd & the School before turning R onto Ripon Street then L onto St Davids Street which in turn becomes Brenchley Rd. Just after the gated community, Hilton Heights, park considerably where the 4wd track starts. Go through two farm gates, passing a barn on the R, continue up by the old walls onto Chalmers Track which comes into an open valley, as the track winds its way up the gut look for a yellow topped waratah that marks a sidetrack R that goes to the crag cutting up through the bush to arrive at the L end of the crag, be careful on the ledges.

800 mts 12/15 minutes
GPS -43.595223, 172.734539



Seismic Damage

There is some minor seismic damage at the L end of the crag, the first climb, Endgame, that climbed the rib has been de-bolted, the studs are still visible.



Climbing

There is just the one face split by a gully at the R side. The crag faces West & gets good afternoon/evening sun the climbing is on well featured rock that looks amazingly like crazy paving.

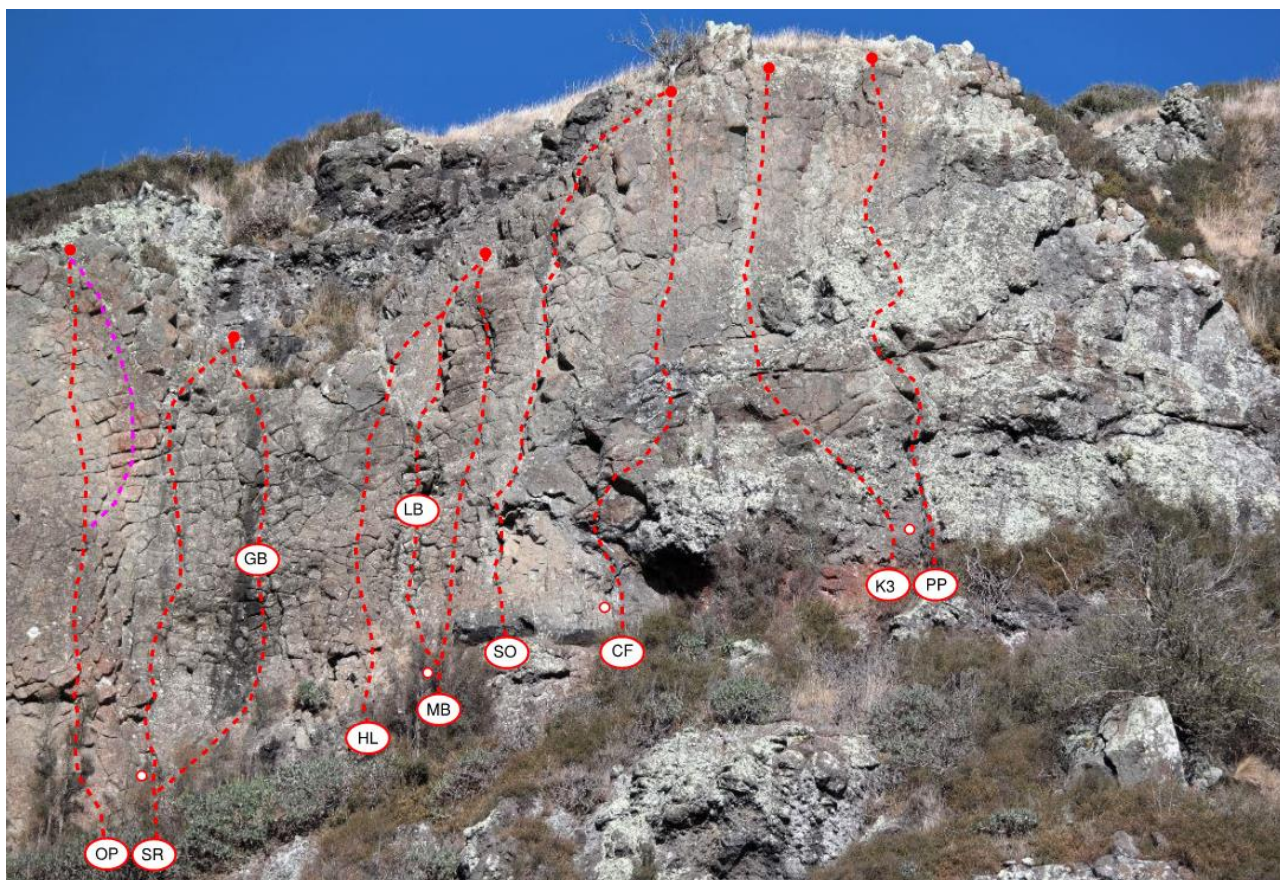
End Endgame 16 S3 Sp 4Br

Neil Sloan, 2010

This climb is quake damaged post the 2010/2011 earthquakes but is included for completeness.
Climbs the face that forms the end of the cliff.



EC	More than Ewes can Chew	16	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Neil Sloan, 1992</i>
Climbs the wall starting on the L of the bulbous feature & going R around the bulbous feature at the top.						
Cu	Crack me up	19	S1	Sp	5Br	<i>Neil Sloan, 2013</i>
Start to the R of the bulbous feature, cross the small overlap & onto the smoother wall above moving first to the R then back L at the top to finish at 'Sky' anchor.						
Sky	Skylark	17	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Neil Sloan, 1992</i>
Start behind the bushes at a crack, go R across the slab & go over the overlap then direct up the crazy paving.						
Net	Nettle	18	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Neil Sloan, 1992</i>
Move R about 2.0mts below a sloping roof. Go up to the steeper rock then step L & back R onto the upper face, follow the R edge for a few metres before heading L & climbing the L side of the upper pillar.						
FC	Fiction Climb	17	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Neil Sloan, 1992</i>
Same start as 'Net' but above the roof follow the R arete of the upper featured face. Clip the shared Br before topping out.						
BG	Blaze of Glory	18	S1	Sp	5Br	<i>Neil Sloan, 1992</i>
Roughly in the centre of the wall is a black coloured water warn feature leading into a corner system, climb the black wall before bridging up the corner groove system finishing up on the R side of the arete to aa common anchor.						
CP	Climb Without a Postcard	16	S1	Sp	5Br	<i>Neil Sloan, 1992</i>
Climbs the wall where the black water warn section meets the pinkie grey wall cracks. Climb up the slim semi recessed pillar feature & go through the open groove exiting to the L across easy ground to the anchor of 'BG'.						
JS	Jellied Squeals	19	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Neil Sloan, 1992</i>
Aprox 1.0mt R is a shallow, irregular, L facing corner leading up through a slot follow the groovy crack to the top.						
OP	Once Upon a Planet	20	S1	Sp	4Br	<i>Neil Sloan, 1992</i>
Moving R again 'OP' starts behind a bush at a belayer bolt with chain-link & directly below a tongue of rock that forms the upper smooth slab. Start easily up the wall & after Br1 step L to go straight up the wall, the R finish (shown in purple) is easier than the direct.						



SR Seeing Red 17 S1 Sp 3Br Neil Sloan, 2012
 Start at the same point as 'OP' but climb straight up the edge of the black water worn rock keeping R of the pinkie rock before a steep exit R to the anchors.

GB Go Black 17 S1 Sp 3Br Neil Sloan, 2012
 Just R of the start of 'OP' & 'SR', move up onto a ledge at 2.0mts, follow the weakness up the middle of the black wall.
The next prominent features are a central chimney groove & a R leaning corner/groove, this is 'SO', to the L are 3 recorded routes in very close proximity.

HL Harbour Light 15 S1 Sp 4Br Neil Sloan, 2013
 From the belay Br, climb the wall to the L of the chimney groove, at the apex of the slab go R & up to a common anchor at the top of 'MB'.

LB Lava Bar 14 S1 Sp 3Br Neil Sloan, 2013
 Start up the central chimney groove, the bolts are on the R wall, at the top of the chimney veer R to a common anchor at the top of 'MB'.

MB Monster Bar 17 S1 Sp 3Br Neil Sloan, 2013
 Climb the bolt line between 'LB' & 'SO', fairly blinkered as you could go L or R to the adjoining lines.

SO School's Out 15 S1 Sp 4Br Neil Sloan, 1992
 Just uphill a little, climb the prominent gully/groove past 4Br to an anchor station.

There is a single chain link at the start of the next climb 'CF'.

CF Cross Your Fingers 19 S1 Sp 4Br Neil Sloan, 1992
 From the belay bolt bridge up the L side of a cave low down, move out R onto a block then back L & go straight up the wall.

There is a single chain link between the start of the next two climbs, 'K3' & 'PP'.

K3 K3 17 S1 Sp 4Br Neil Sloan, 1992
 Start at the R edge of the small overhangs near a band of red volcanic ash, skirt around the bulge heading L before climbing direct up the face.

PP **Pigeon Poop** **16** **S1** **Sp** **4Br** *Neil Sloan, 2010*
Start just R of the belay bolt but head up the R side of the crack heading slightly L through the bulges to better rock then head diagonally R to the anchors.

Around the end of the main crag is a small red wall that lays back into the hillside. The buttress has one climb & it's debatable as to whether it is worth climbing.



FB **Fish Don't Need Bicycles** **18** **S3** **Tr** **0Br** *Neil Sloan, 1992*
Get onto the face moving from L to R, then follow the L arete.