

2015 - Port Hills Bouldering & Dry Tooling



Tony Burnell

Contents

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| WARNING | 1 |
| GRADES | 1 |
| EQUIPMENT..... | 1 |
| ACCESS..... | 1 |
| LOCATION MAP | <i>Error! Bookmark not defined.</i> |
| THE QUARRY..... | 2 |
| ROADSIDE..... | 3 |
| WEE DORIS..... | 4 |
| THE TUNNEL BOULDERS | 5 |
| BRIDLE BOULDER..... | 10 |
| THE TORS AREA | 11 |
| RAPAKI TOP..... | 17 |
| WATERFALL CRAG..... | 22 |
| ALBERT PROMENADE..... | 23 |
| THE SMALL CAVE..... | 24 |
| TRANSMITTER CRAG | 25 |
| GOVERNORS BAY | 28 |
| DRY TOOLING | 30 |
| MOUNT VERNON DRY TOOLING CRAG..... | 30 |
| ALBERT PROMENADE DRY TOOLING CRAG..... | 32 |
| CRUCIFIX CAVE DRY TOOLING CRAG | 33 |

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(Revision B)

Cover Shot Perry Logan at Lyttelton Rock

INTRODUCTION

The Port Hills and Bouldering are probably not considered synonymous, but if you take a careful look around there are ample opportunities to boulder right on your backdoor step. There have been a few aficionados over the years namely Perry Logan, Jonathon Wilkinson, Marcus Thomas, Roland Foster and myself. The prize for the most determined of these would have to go to Roland for his long term efforts in creating the slit trench like boulder wall in the quarry above Lyttelton.

Since the earthquake however a number of people have stepped up to the plate and the newly formed bouldering area above the tunnel road along with the Waterfall Crag in Mt Vernon have become popular. So with this in mind I thought I'd put together a collection of areas; recorded here are over 200 problems the majority of which I have climbed, along with others, over the years. Problems that have been climbed are marked with red lines, those marked with yellow lines I don't believe have been climbed. By its nature bouldering is infinitely variable therefore only obvious lines are recorded, so feel free to go forth and discover any number of link ups and eliminates. Some of the crags are purely long traverses which, personally, I've always enjoyed, probably due to the long winter evenings climbing outside Henry Price building at Leeds University.

WARNING

Port Hills Rock should always be treated as suspect, even more so after the events of the last 5 years. Being volcanic there are huge differences in the type and strength of the rock around here; rock breaks, often when you least expect it, always use a boulder mat and always have a spotter. Some of the problems are high (in fact small routes, and have been climbed as such) and the landings not too user friendly, so again, always have a boulder mat and a spotter. Anchor bolts have been placed above some of the high balls or where the landings could be onerous (or worse). Some crags are better than others

GRADES

So subjective as to be pretty irrelevant, there will be those you can do and those you can't, there will be those you want to and those you don't, there will be even those that you dare and those that you dare not. Just get out and enjoy yourself bouldering should be a voyage of discovery, hell you shouldn't need a guide book just a vivid imagination and a boulder mat.

EQUIPMENT

Boots, chalk bag, boulder mat and spotter are the main items but a couple of decent brushes won't go amiss and a helmet. If you're on your own shunting then you'll need the usual items, harness, long slings, short rope shunt etc

ACCESS

Inclusion of any climbing area in this guidebook does not mean that there is public access. Some of the approaches now require stout footwear or a push bike as the Summit Road is now partially closed, on the bright side you should be warm when you get there.

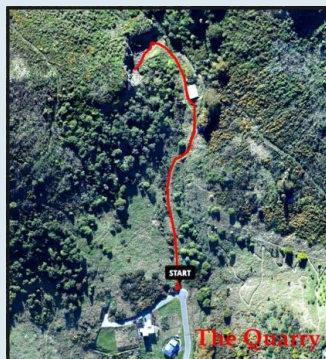
THE QUARRY

Approach:

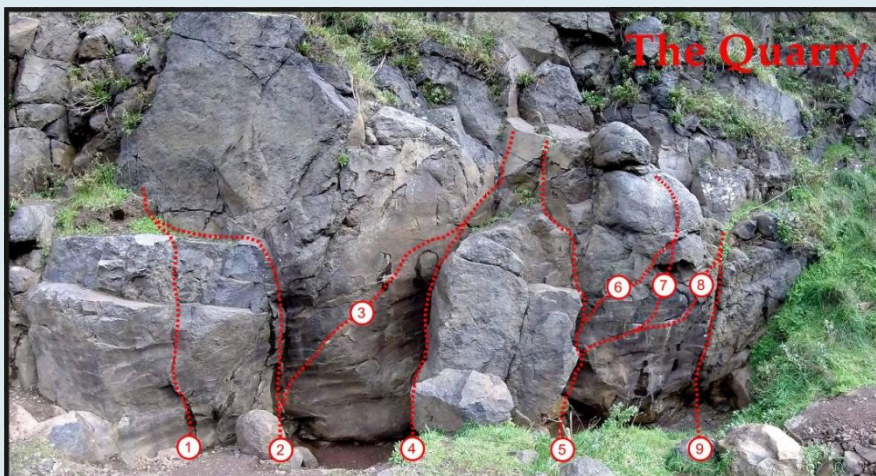
5 minutes

350 metres

Park at the top of Cornwall Road where it meets Endeavour Place, walk up the road then the access road to the reservoir, skirt round to the left to access the quarry, Roland's wall is in the slit trench at the very left side. There is potential for rock fall in the area.



1. Start left of a free standing boulder undercut down and left, up the crack onto the second ledge.
2. Up the groove right of the small free standing boulder.
3. Start at the base of the same groove, small crimps heading diagonally right.
4. Start on the right low down in the left facing corner, straight up.
5. Over to the next section on straight up and slightly left.



6. Same start but go diagonally right, then up at the end.
7. Same start but go right at the lower level.
8. Same again but continue all the way across the face.
9. The vertical line at the right end of the buttress.

ROADSIDE

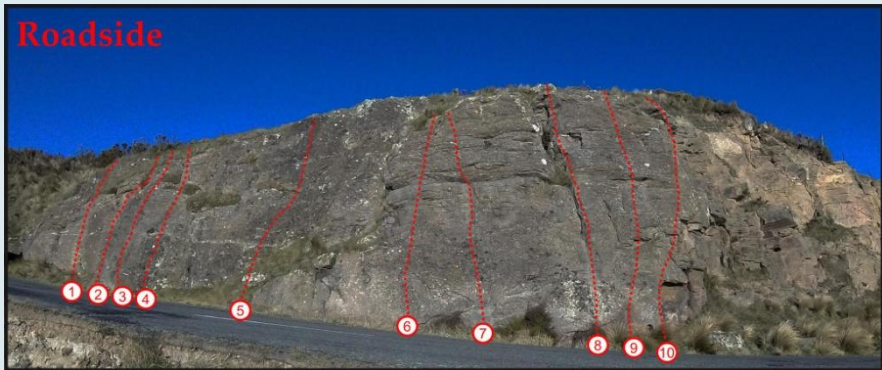
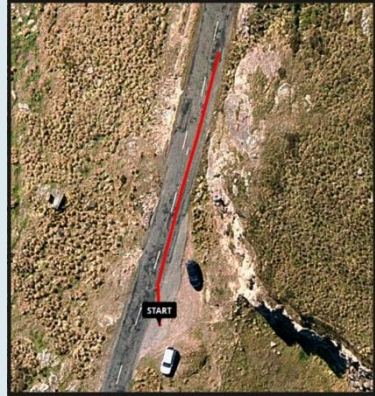
Approach:

1 minute

50 metres

Park at the pull in by the old quarry as for Cattle Stop Crag. Just back up the road from the car park.

The lines are described from left to right.



1. **Sticky**, The left most short slab
2. The left facing corner
3. The blind crack and slab just right of the corner
4. Central slab
5. Start on the grass, up the longest piece of rock, ledge at half height
6. Moving right to the next face, the wall left of the hanging groove
7. Straight up to the hanging groove
8. Central groove
9. Right of the crack, up to a ledge then tricky move to the top
10. Start at the low down roof, up to the ear, then into the short corner near the arête

WEE DORIS

Approach:

2 minutes

100 metres

Park at the pull in by the old quarry as for Cattle Stop Crag.

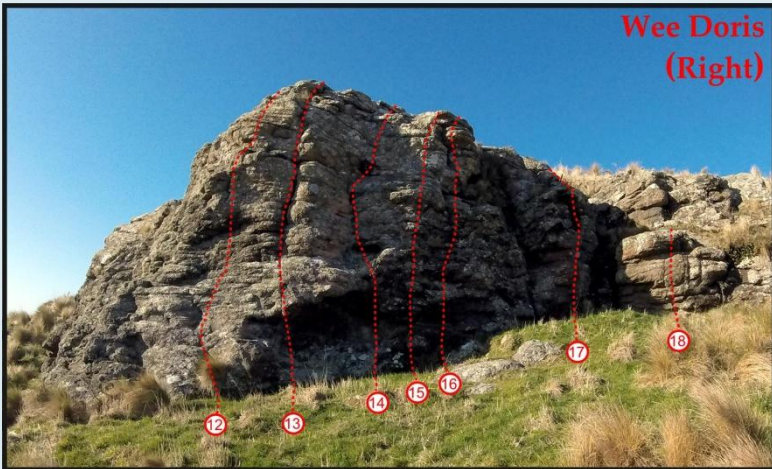
The wall right of the quarry by the Cattlestop car parking spot, hop the fence and head around the corner.

The lines are described from left to right



1. Start at the left hand side, up onto the step then up to the top
2. Just right, over the overlap and up to the top
3. Start by the blind crack up over the bulge exit at the highest point
4. Start at the left end of the overlap, straight up the blunt, mossy arête
5. Just right of the dirty groove, up onto the big ledge then over the top
6. Starts at the pointy block, over the bulge and up the blunt arête
7. Just left of the next corner, easily up the wall and through the pale scoop
8. Start right of the corner, up the wall exiting right of the pale scoop
9. Up the long green streak
10. Up the short green streak

11. From the toe of the buttress, up to a ledge then out right to the top of the arête



12. Just round the arête up to the overlap then the short crack to exit at the top of the arête
13. The obvious hanging crack
14. The scoops corner right of the obvious crack
15. Straight up the rib that forms right side of the corner
16. The inviting black mossy scoop and bulging arête above
17. Through the recess right with an old fence post top right
18. Mantle over the rooflet to the right

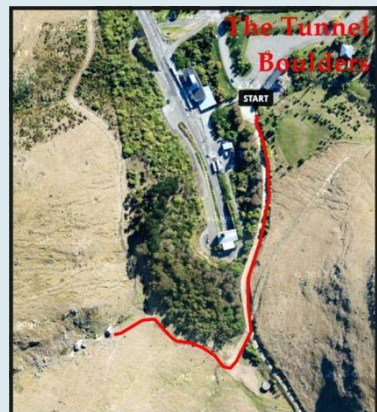
THE TUNNEL BOULDERS

Approach:

8 minutes

500 metres

Park at the Gondola and walk up the Bridlepath, a track goes off to the right by through gate, go right then through the next gate out into the open valley and up to the boulders. A collection of boulders located just off the Bridle Path just above the tunnel road, these boulders were ejected from Castle Rock during the seismic activity of 2010/2011. There are two main boulders the larger one is "The White Boulder" and smaller one is "The Beefcake Boulder@".

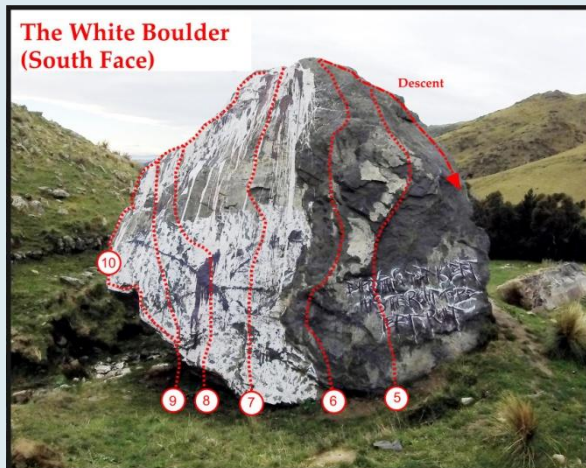


The White Boulder



East Face

1. Follow the overlap and go over the bulge to the top.
2. Straight up to the end of the overlap, follow the feature round left and up to the top.
3. Start about a metre and a half left of the arête up the wall through the shallow notch.
4. Follow the left arête on the east face.



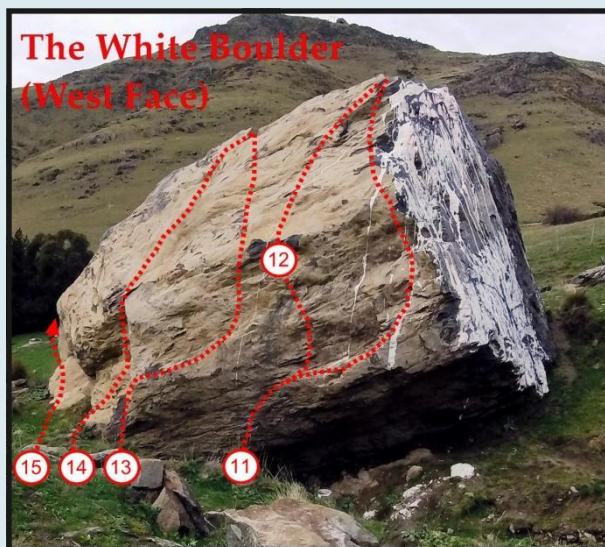
South Face

5. Up the wall to the left of the arête starting towards the left edge of the wording, follow up and round the right side of the whiter marks.
6. Zigzag: Zigzag up the wall just right of the white paint.

-
7. Snow White: Fun climbing up the centre of the high slab. Spoiled by the presence of the paint.
 8. Paint Face Left: Between the arête and centre of the slab there is another obvious line, unfortunately the paint prevents the climb from going directly to the top but instead traverses left at about half height.
 9. Sauron Direct: Same start but rock over onto the slab rather than under the roof.
 10. Sauron Roof: Sit start on sharp hold and bust up to arête then back left under the roof to top out similar to Ammonium. Originally done without using the arête.

West Face

11. Ammonia: Start standing with hands matched in angled slot, slap up and right to big right hand then trend slightly left to slopers then top straight up via spicy slab.
12. Ammonium: Start as for Ammonia except rather than trending left, trend right along the big ledge, mantle over then the top out eases off.
13. Hanging Out With Friends: Sit start on the vague left arête and traverse rightwards on slopers, after two to three meters mantle over and top out via slab.
14. Up the short corner onto the slab.



15. . Start near the vague arête on the left and head u the back of the boulder.

The Satellite Boulder

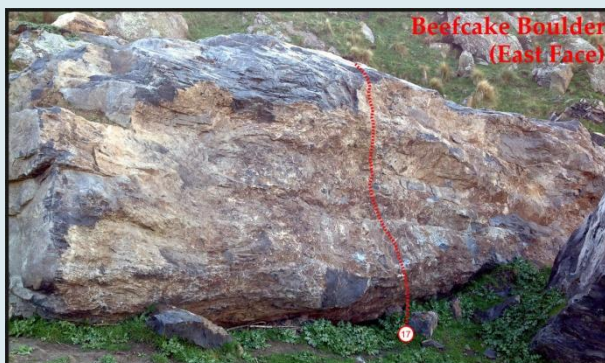


16. Pumpy 1: Start at the right side of the boulder and make your way leftwards then around arête.

The Beefcake Boulder

East Face

17. Sloper & Sloper: The centre of the face up to the right end of the scar.

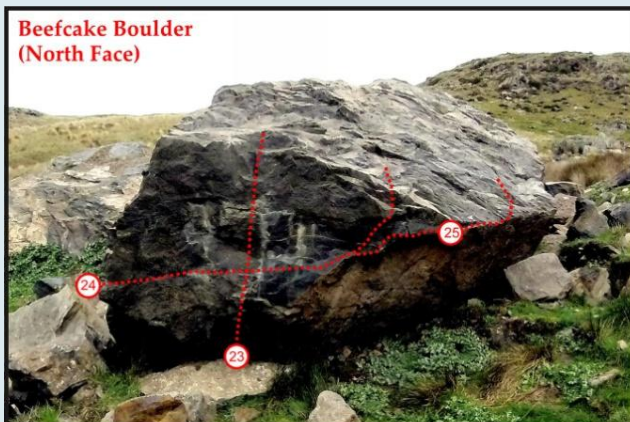


West Face

18. The Code of Dabbing: Straight up the arête from a sit start
19. Dab Police: Sit start on edge and side pull down low on right arête, traverse left into the corner to top out.
20. Blocus: Start with left hand on obvious rail and right on the arête



- 21. Early Bird Gets The Worm: Sit Start with right hand on big side pull and left on small crimp.
- 22. The Final Take: Three small crimps on the blank face.



North Face

23. Straight up the centre of the wall, start on big edges
24. Siberia: Start on arête and small edge, traverse to cube block then top out left.
25. The Trans-Siberian Railway: Start on arête and crimp, traverse all the way along to the detached block (block not in) then mantle over

BRIDLE BOULDER

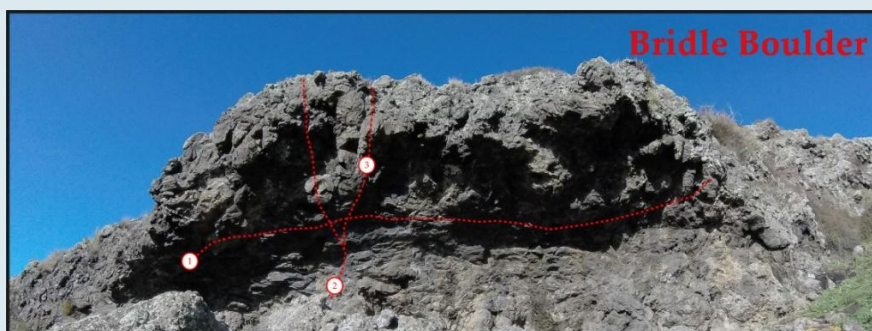
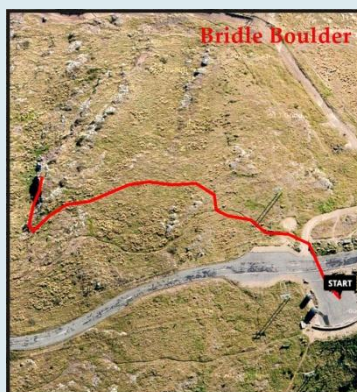
Approach:

3 minutes

170 metres

Either walk up the Bridlepath or park and bike along the Summit Road to the top of the Bridlepath. A lone overhanging boulder located at the top of the Bridle Path on the West side of the track below the summit road.

There is a low level traverse in either direction



1. Low level traverse either direction
2. Start just left of a pillar more or less in the centre of the face, up into a large pocket then exit to the left
3. Same start up into the large pocket then out right to another pocket and up over the lip.

THE TORS AREA

There are two areas, Front Tor and Back Tor. Front Tor is on east side of the saddle behind The Tors climbing area, Back Tor is out along the spur that looks out over Lyttelton Harbour.

There's some quality rock here which gets good afternoon sun.

Approach:

7 minutes

370 metres

Either bike along the Summit Road from Rapaki Rock parking area or from Lyttelton Rock parking area to The Tors.

Follow the walking track around the north side of The Tors climbing area after 200 mts you will see a small buttress in profile on the left of the saddle, this is the Back Tor, cut up the hill to the crag. To get to the Side Tor follow the fence line out till it ends on a promontory, this is the top of the Side Tor, walk across the top and descent the far end of the buttress.



Back Tor



A short bulging wall on the ridge line at the left side of the saddle, routes are described from left to right.

1. Start at the left side of the crag and zig-zag your way up the wall.
2. Just right there is pod at low level, straight up the wall with a slight kick left at the top.
3. Climb the shallow groove to a small roof, over this and continue to the top.

-
4. Climb over the bulge and up just right of the little roof.
 5. Climbs the main groove to the right.
 6. Just right is a series of bulges that form a rib, climb these direct.
 7. Right again is a ramp, climb the ramp onto the ledge then the next ramp heading left.
 8. Direct up to the ledge, step right and exit easily.
 9. Start in the short right facing corner, up onto the ledge then straight up.
 10. Just right, climb the left side of the blunt rib, exit direct or scamper off.
 11. Up the right facing corner groove, easy exit round right.
 12. Up the centre of the shallow bay, with a step on the right.
 13. Off the step and up the groove.
 14. Start behind the big block at the base of the crag, straight up the wall.
 15. Up the vague arête with a small rounded ledge at 1200.
- There are a couple of chossy lines before you get to a large nose.
16. 1.5 mts right climb the capped corner and prow above.
 17. Climb the left side of the big nose.

Side Tor



Really good quality rock.

18. The left side of the slab to a ledge, exit diagonally right The centre of the slabby wall on the left.
19. The parallel line just to the right.
20. The hanging groove just right of the slabby face. Straight up to and through the groove line.
21. Follow the shallow groove.

-
22. Climb straight up to and through the triangular capped corner.
 23. Start at the base of the groove and go up past the right side of the capped corner.
 24. Straight up from the toe of the buttress
Three metres right is a shallow corner with a fair bit of green lichen and a rock scar on the right..
 25. Climb the slabby wall left of the corner.
 26. Climb the shallow corner.
 27. Climb up and through the rock scar exit left of the small roof.
 28. Start just left of a red rock on the ground, up the short slabby 'S' groove and green slab to exit through a corner.
 29. The obvious larger 'S' shaped groove.
 30. The left bolted line.
 31. The middle bolted line.
 32. The right bolted line.
 33. Start as for the bolted line but stay round to the right, follow the right side of the arête.
 34. Climb the groove to the right and exit slightly rightwards up the slab.
 35. straight up through the shallow recess
 36. up the blind grass filled crack left of the prow
 37. straight over the prow that forms the arête
 38. the shallow groove right of the prow
 39. the arête right of the shallow groove

The Cowshed

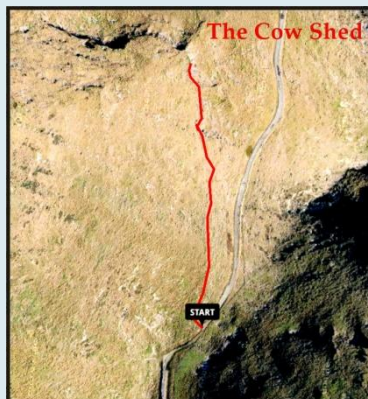
A great little venue sheltered from the Easterly can be a bit dirty

Approach:

5 minutes

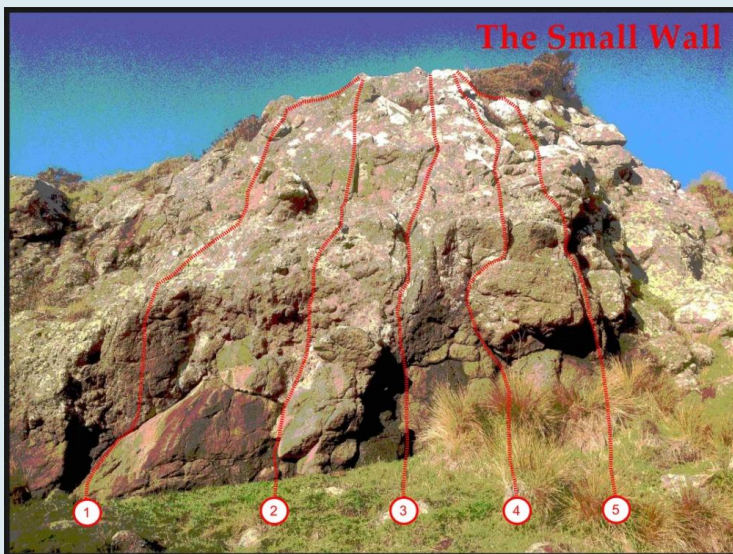
350 metres

Either bike along the Summit Road from Rapaki Rock parking area, or from the Lyttelton Rock parking area. So start from the Tors parking area. Go through the gate and along the fence line till you can see a rocky buttress with a green lozenge shaped rock on top, contour down slightly to pass this buttress "The Sentinel" continue round till you come to the main crag.



Small Wall

The first problems are on the buttress to the left of the main wall. All routes are described from Left to Right

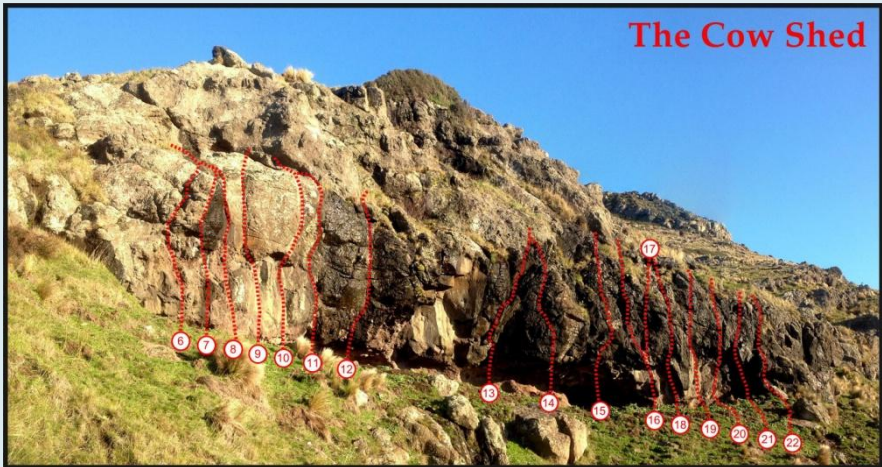


1. Start at the small chocolate coloured slab close to ground level on the left, mantle direct off the top of the slab, exit up the scoop past the big nose.

2. Start on the left side of the pedestal, climb direct up past the right of the nose.
3. Start on the right side of the pedestal, climb directly up through the ledge to the apex.
4. Start a metre to the right on the left side of the bulge, straight up and then the slab above the ledge.
5. On the arête up the short groove then the slabs above heading left.

Main Wall

6. Climb the cindery looking wall then the right trending cleft.
7. Climb the featured wall just right of the cleft.
8. Climb straight up to the left pointing ear.
9. The hanging corner with the yellow lichen at the bottom



10. Just right, climb the wall to the roof, then straight up the open groove above.
11. Climb the shallow hanging groove
12. Climb the next shallow hanging groove, difficult start from a left hand pocket.
13. 4.0 mts right, left trending groove to a sentry box.
14. Just right the undercut, black, featured wall.
15. Short undercut groove, dynamic move to good hold, easier above.
16. 14-15. Joint star at a hanging crack, move L onto the face and good holds - groove direct.
17. The vague groove just right again.
18. An eye at 2.0mts marks the start, gain the eye then straight up.
19. The rounded hanging arête just right, climbed from the left side.
20. The Open groove just right.

21. A diagonal scramble heading right

Cordyline Wall

Heading back towards the cars Cordyline Wall is the buttress with the Cabbage Tree

22. A line up the left wall to a mantle-shelf exit
23. The vague groove 1.0 mt left of the right edge, exit slightly right at the top.
24. The arête, start on the right side, a couple of moves up to mantle-shelf exit.
25. Climb the right wall, up onto shrubby ledge then straight up left of the Cordyline.

RAPAKI TOP

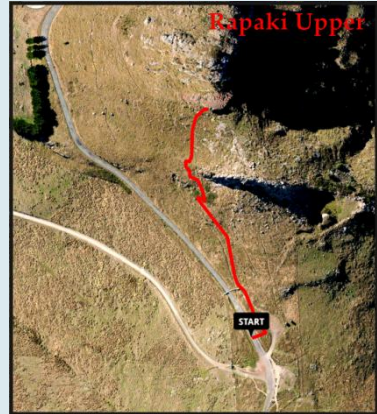
A collection of bouldering areas on the hillside above and behind the main climbing area at Rapaki Rock

Approach:

5 minutes

310 metres

Park on the Summit Road at the Rapaki Rock parking area Follow the walking track (East) from the parking area once you have gained some height the Red Wall becomes visible



Overview



The Red Wall

Formed during the volcanic eruptions that created the crater which is now Lyttelton Harbour, this wall comprises a compact layer of volcanic ash.

The problems are described from left to right, at the right hand end of the crag a couple of anchor points have been placed if you want to rope solo any of the

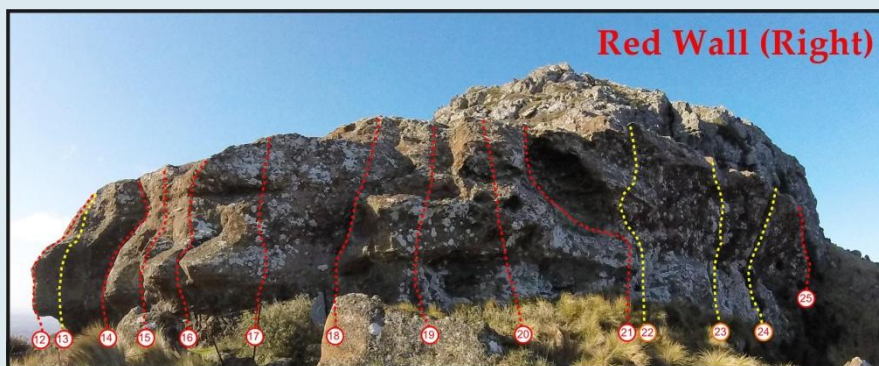
problems, the rock is porous so treat it gently.



1. At the left end of the Red Wall is a small buttress with a mouth about 1.0 mt off the ground, climb into and then out of the mouth direct.
2. Climb the twin parallel cracks at the left end of the crag
3. Just right is a small roof with a pair discontinuous parallel cracks, climb up the centre

The next problems are past the easy angled slabs approximately 8 metres to the right

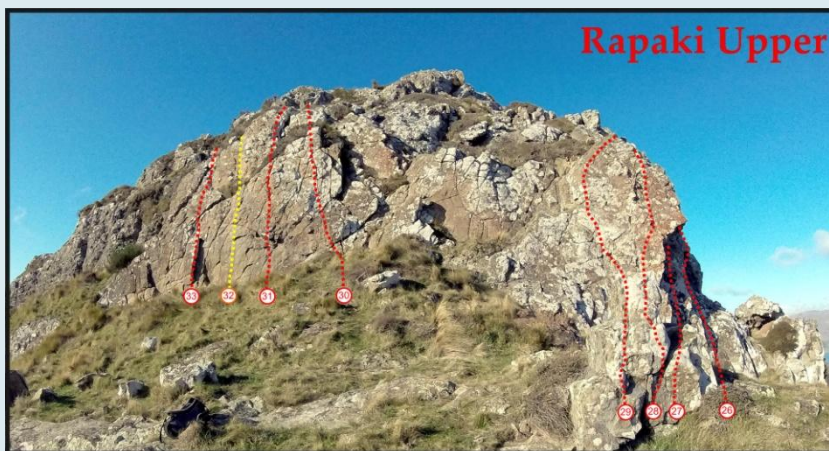
4. The easy green mossy slab.
5. The hanging scoop left of "Minor".
6. Minor: The smaller right trending groove
7. Major: The larger right trending groove
8. The hanging groove approximately 2 mts right (UC).
9. 2 mts right again, climb the shallow scoop (UC).
10. The prow (UC).
11. Red Letter: Up to the pocket at the base of the short deep crack, exit direct.



12. Ash Vaguely: Climb the blunt arête on the right side.
13. Climb the face just right of the hanging arête (UC).
14. No. 1 Corner: Climb the obvious left facing groove

-
15. Groove Direct: Climb the next shallow groove direct
 16. Climb the notch approximately 2 mts left of the fence.
 17. Climb the blank wall approximately 1.5 mts left of the fence.
 18. Fence Line: The crack directly above the fence
 19. Friction Problem: The scoops on the blunt arête approximately 1 mt right of the fence.
 20. Scoop de Gras: 2 mts right, climb the series of scoops after reaching them directly
 21. Climb the massive scoop, enter form the right and exit on the left
 22. Climb the right side of the large scoop (UC).
 23. High Ball: 2 mts left of the overhanging crack(UC).
 24. The overhanging crack (UC), anchor point at the top.
 25. Swing Time: move dynamically left and up to easier ground, anchor point at the top.

The Upper Wall



Located above and behind the Red Wall Area slightly to the left, some great quality rock; the first four problems are at the head of a gully and are quite high; there is no flat landing here, there is an anchor point if you want to top rope or shunt these problems. Problems are described from right to left.

26. The Ramp: Start slightly down and right of the groove, move easily from right to left up the slab, the top gets a little more interesting.
27. The Groove: Climb the obvious groove just right of the arête
28. Red Lining: Climb the right edge of the red wall
29. The Max: Climbs the left edge of the wall, use the arête at the top

An easy, right trending ramp allows access to the top of the crag, moving a few

metres left.

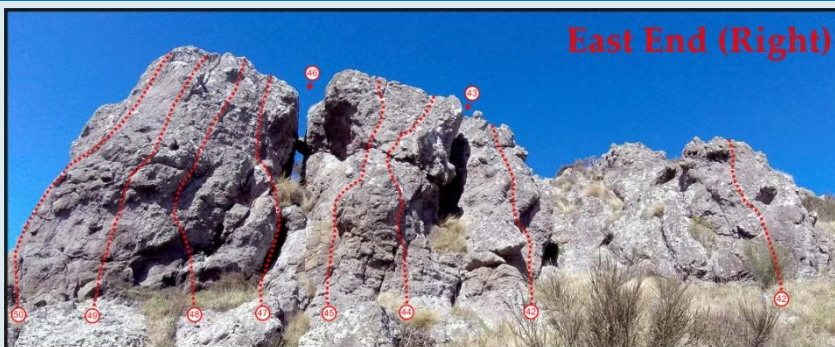
30. The Ear: Climb the white rock face just right of the arête.
31. The Diamond: Start below the vague 'S' shaped crack go up through the diamond and exit over the shrubbery.
32. Just to the right, move up to a blind diagonal crack then up the shallow left facing corner above (UC)
33. Climbs the short vertical column/crack and slab above

Cinders

Located about 25mts from the left end of the "Upper Wall", Cinders is a small buttress with a prominent arête. There are two anchor points on top of the crag here.

34. 4.0mts right of "The Crack", climb the rib.
35. The arête and wall just right of "The Crack"
36. The Crack: Climbs the prominent crack 4 mts right of the arête.
37. Start off a large boulder and climb the face above.
38. Start just left of the boulder, climb the wall direct
39. Cinders: The undercut arête via the pocket.
40. Wall End: The wall left of the arête, start up the hill slightly and step out right towards the arête before going straight up

East End

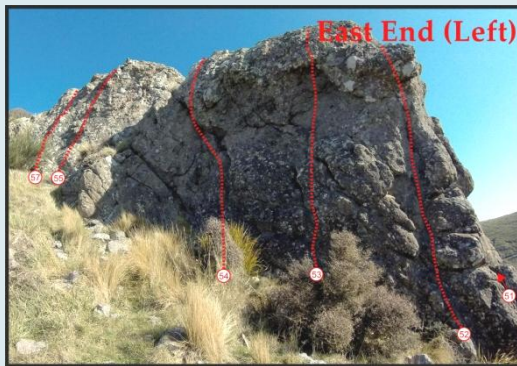


East End is located about 30mts left of Cinders, and comprises a couple of buttresses with chimney sized cracks breaking them up, on top of the buttress are some anchors which might infer that some of these problems may have been climbed or top roped as routes. The rock here has suffered badly in the quakes and needs a cleanup.

41. Start 4 mts right of the right hand chimney, climb the face.
42. Start round to the right of the right hand chimney, climb the centre of the face

from the right.

43. The right hand chimney
44. Zigzag: Zigzag up the centre of the buttress left of the chimney past a large horn.
45. Just left, up the scoop to gain the pedestal and then up to the top
46. Climb the chimney crack.
47. Climb the face left of the crack
48. Left again is a short hanging groove, gain it from the right then straight up.
49. 1.5 mts right of the toe of the buttress and go straight up.
50. On the right side of the wall facing the road, up on to the ledge and continue to the top.



51. Lightning: The large crack facing the road.
52. The Rib: The rib of left of 'Lightning'
53. Round the corner, easily into a scoop then over the small roof to the upper slab.
54. The crack on the left that peters out before the top.
On the slab left of the gully
55. Up the centre of the wall using the large squarish protuberance
56. Just left of the centre follow the line of chicken heads

WATERFALL CRAG

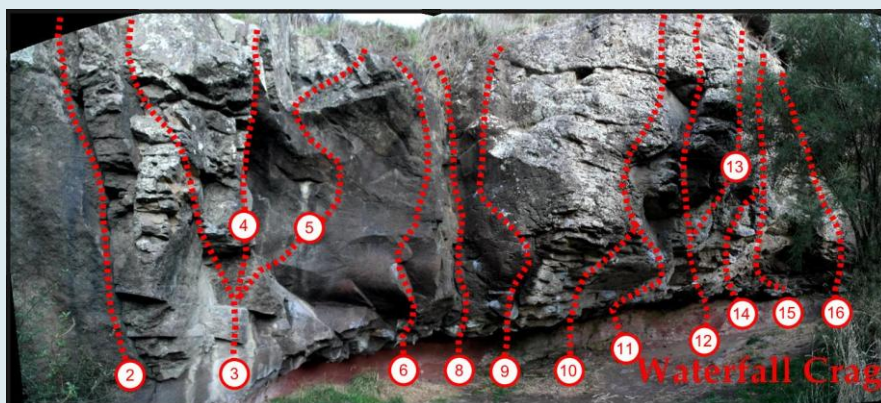
Probably the most well-known bouldering area in Christchurch. There are around a 15 problems and link ups generally starting from sit down starts

Approach:

10 minutes

750 metres

Drive up Hillsborough Terrace and The Crescent to park in the Mt Vernon carpark, take the Valley Track; after the third gate hop over fence and head to the creek. The first gate is held open by a stone, please do not remove it



1. The slabby groove behind and left of the dead tree
2. The slabby wall just right of the dead tree
3. The first groove, it has a small tree growing from the top
4. Start on the big flat hold, head left to the rib
5. Same start, straight up
6. Same start, move right into the steep black groove, exit through the notch
7. Start at the glue on low and left of the square open groove, steep crimps climbing
8. The groove starting on the left or the right

-
9. From the holds right of the groove, up the blunt arête on its left side
 10. Just right, a small glued on hold, up to the lip and better holds
 11. Just right again a better hold, out to the lip with double roof above
 12. Same start but go right under the black streak then back left to the arête
 13. Same start but keep heading right to the groove with the capping rock above
 14. To the right again two very steep starts, on the left crossing the largest part of the roof,
 15. On the right going straight into the hanging groove
 16. Far left traverse out left then up over the bulge to the top

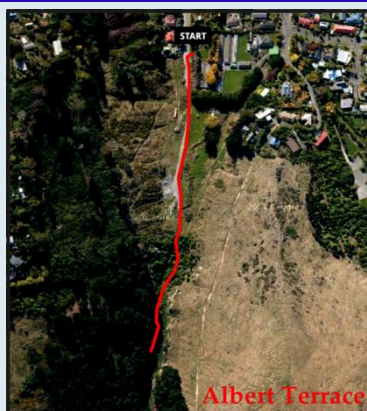
ALBERT PROMENADE

Approach:

6 minutes

450 metres

From the parking at the end of Albert Terrace. Walk up the valley past the climbing area until you come to a second crag which is about 25mts long and 4 to 5 mts high



There is a traverse from right to left or visa-versa, there is also one part bolted route at the right end

bivouac / outdoor

COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

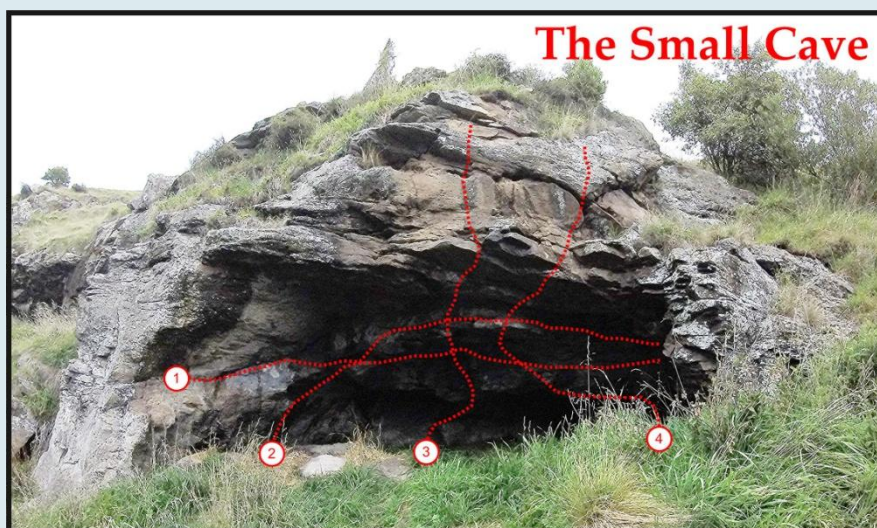
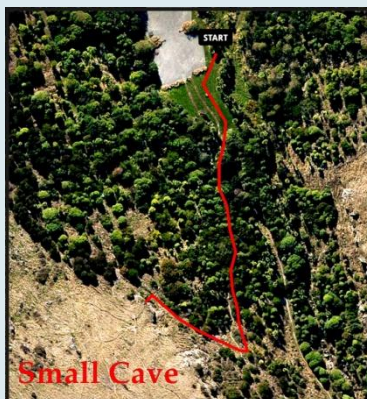
THE SMALL CAVE

Approach:

3 minutes

180 metres

Drive up Hillsborough Terrace and The Crescent to park in the Mt Vernon car park and take the Valley Track then take the first right up the hill, at the second hairpin there is a cave just up and left of the track.



There are a couple of traverse lines and a couple of up problems.

1. Traverse 1: start at the left side of the cave by the grey paint, traverse rightwards to the pod then up into the upper break, along this to the right corner then either go right and step off or, using an undercut go out to the lip and up
2. Traverse 2: start below and right of the grey paint, up then right into the pod, stay in the bottom break and make a slightly descending traverses rightwards
3. Druggist: Start low down in the back of the cave, there is a hold to the right of the word "DRUG" come out rightwards to a slower and poor pocket up into the break then out to holds on the lip and into the next break, span out to the

lip then over and up the head wall

4. Start at the right side on a low down flange, feet in rear of cave move up and left then out to the big hold with a kak paint dab, go up and right to top out through the notch

TRANSMITTER CRAG

Marcus Thomas's soloed three routes on the wall right of the Goat Cave, these would have been the first boulder problems climbed at Transmitter they are a little high ball but not that bad generally having easy exit on to the top of the crag. As the height of the crag reduces the base of the crag becomes undercut and provides a couple of long traverses, currently not fully accessible due to the fallen pine trees, firstly feet on lip and secondly, hands on the lip, the lower being the hardest.

The upper crag I discovered around 2000 and the majority of the problems were climbed between 2000 & 2005.

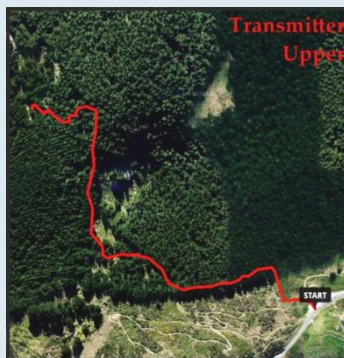
Transmitter Crag Upper

Approach:

15 minutes

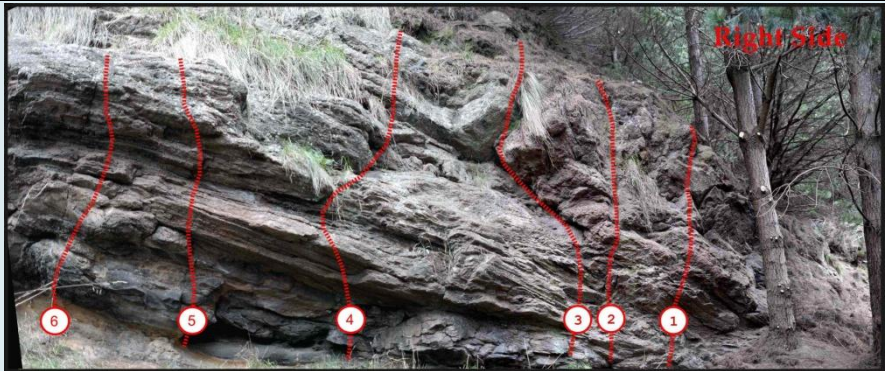
800 metres

Park on the Summit Road and approach as for Transmitter Crag, just before the main crag, head up the hill and go into the forest heading away from the crag at an angle of 45 degrees, after 50 or 60 mts you will come to a wire fence, follow the fence till you see the crag

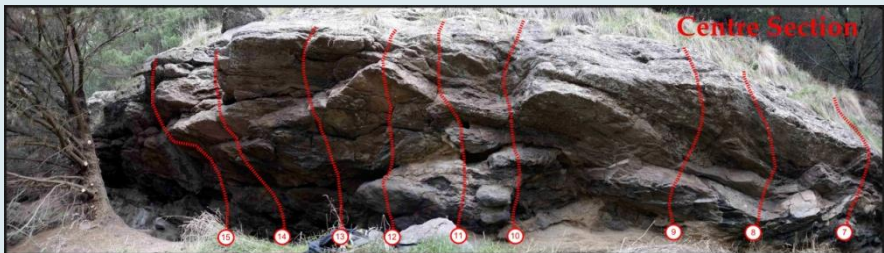


All problems start from sitting and routes described from right to left.

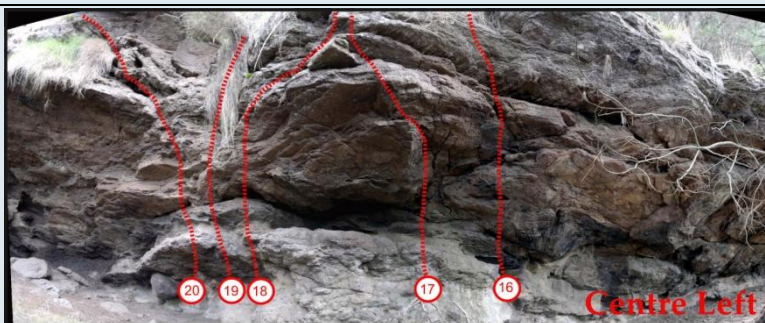
1. Start sitting just left of the tree, straight up to a pointed jug and flake above to top out.
2. A metre to the left is a vague groove and a large left trending flake. Straight up the vague groove.
3. Follow the left trending flake
4. Two metres right, start under the roof in a slight bay, up through the roof and easier ground above via right facing flakes.
5. Four metres left is a large flat hold, sit down start straight up horizontal breaks through the bulge to mantle over the top.



6. Start at the flat block on the ground, good hold on right, up and over the top.



7. Off the flat block, up to flakey prow then OTT.
8. Sit down start half a metre left of the rock, good hold to start then a crimper to make the stretch to the lip, heel hook over at widest part.
9. Sit under the roof at a large jug on the R of the cave, up onto the prow then over the roof (side pull for RH).
10. Start left of the recess just right of the three blocks, easily up through the centre.
11. From the large block, sit start up to square pocket then exit to left.
12. From the two left most blocks head up over the roof on good holds.
13. Start in the back of the cave one metre left of the blocks, pull up into the roof and with aid of a foot lock on the right; turn the lip small holds by the small crack in the roof.
14. Start in the centre of this section of the roof by a flat block in the ground, good holds to get the under carriage up, go right into a thin crack then up into the groove above.
15. Start on the left of the flat block at a good hold, go right then back left to sharp crimps then launch to the lip, easier to the top from here then back left to sharp crimps then launch to the lip, easier to the top from here.



16. Start at the left end of this section of the roof just right of a fallen tree, easy climbing through the notch to the top.
17. Up the prow above the stump.
18. The prow from the left.
19. The easy groove to the left.
20. From the start of the groove follow the left trending crack.



21. Start right of the next tree in a large hole at low level, up left and back right to finish.
22. Left again a line of good holes going straight up.
23. Just right of the tree, straight up through the hanging corner.
24. Left of the tree, start at the hole low down up onto the slab above and exit to the right.
25. One meter right of the left arête, up the easier angled but less featured wall without using the arête on the left

Transmitter Crag Right Hand Side

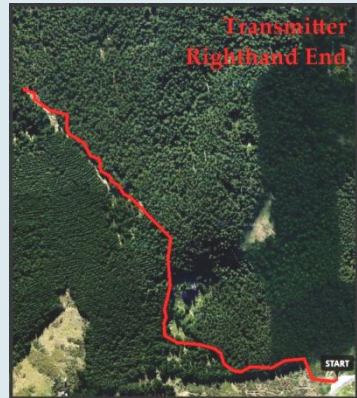
Approach:

25 minutes

1150 metres

Park on the Summit Road and approach as for Transmitter Crag, at the large pull in overlooking the Flying Nun about a kilometer from the Sign of the Kiwi. Walk in through the forest as for Transmitter Crag, the bouldering is to the right of the Goat Cave where the crag reduces in height.

The majority of this section of crag is inaccessible due to the current harvesting activities in the forest



GOVERNORS BAY

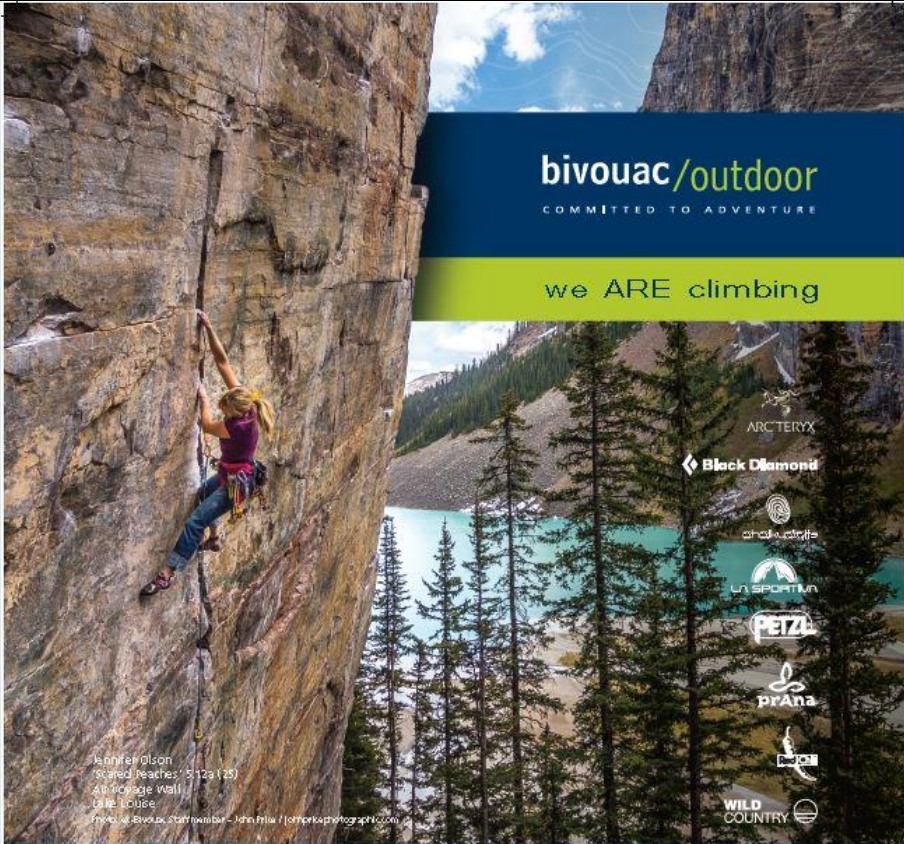
Approach:

15 minutes

960 metres

Park at Governors Bay jetty and follow the track towards Allandale, after about 750mts you arrive at the crag, there are two crags, the first one is smaller (in length) than the second which is crag is about 35mts long, there is a small Ngaio tree in the middle which could do with a trim. The crag has a honeycomb texture in parts and a lot of sloping flanges. Fun traverse either direction.





Jennifer Olson
 "Scared Reacher" 5'12" (25)
 Air Force 1 Wall
 Date to Climb
 Photo © Bivouac.com/Wambler - John Pflum / johnpflumphotography.com

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DRY TOOLING

Dry tooling, what can you say, do we need a code of ethics? probably not, common sense should prevail, unfortunately looking at the scratch marks on some of the local crags it doesn't. There is so much rock on the Port Hills its untrue, it's all fairly poor quality but the best of it has been developed for rock climbing.

Using ice tools on Port Hills rock inflicts huge forces on an already fragile material and damage once done is generally irreparable. It should go without saying "you do not dry tool on crags where rock climbing, or bouldering for that matter, takes place" irrespective of whether they are poor crags or unpopular crags; crags come into and go out of vogue with time as a generation discovers them and then leaves them behind. If you do need somewhere else to go just wander out onto the hills and look around.

Port Hills Rock should always be treated as suspect, even more so after the events of the last 5 years. Being volcanic there are huge differences in the type and strength of the rock around here; rock breaks, often when you least expect it.

The areas I have put in here are places that are established as, or could be used as, dry tooling venues. The purple dotted lines mark potential lines that are not equipped for leading, the blue dotted lines mark routes that are equipped for leading. Top ropes can be arranged on the trees above the crags or on permanent anchors at the top of the crag. Make sure you belayer wears a helmet, they will be the most vulnerable.

MOUNT VERNON DRY TOOLING CRAG

Approach:

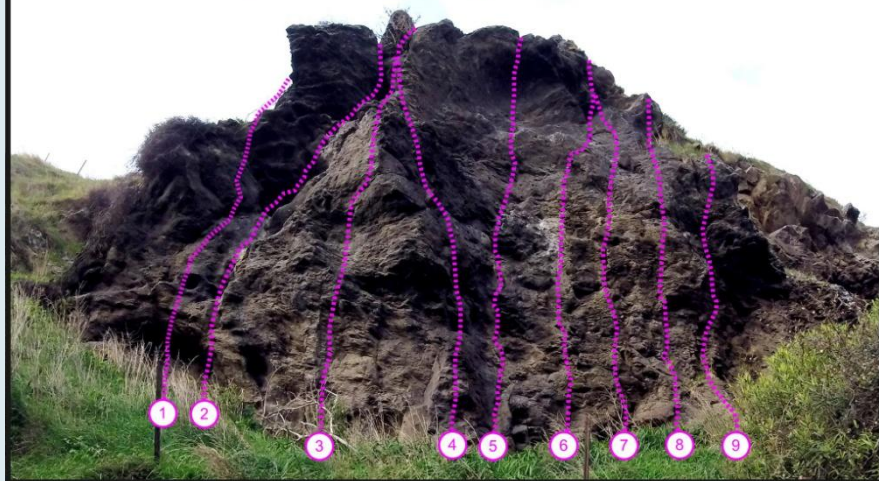
4 minutes

200 metres

Drive up Hillsborough Terrace and The Crescent to park in the Mt Vernon car park and take the Valley Track until you come into a clearing after about 150 metres, you should be opposite the centre of the crag which overlooks the creek. Head across the creek and up the hill.



Mt Vernon Dry Tooling Crag



1. Start at the left side of the buttness, pretty much straight up from the middle of three holes
2. Follow the right trending scoops to exit through the notch
3. Up the steeper wall to a scoop then the arête above exit through the right notch
4. Start at the small black prow just left of the obvious groove crack, diagonally up the wall to join and exit as for route 2
5. Straight up the groove, exit through the smooth scoop
6. A metre right of the groove, up the wall to a blocky pinnacle, exit straight up
7. Three metres right of the groove, straight up to the right end of the blocky pinnacle
8. Start below the left end of the roof, straight up

ALBERT PROMENADE DRY TOOLING CRAG

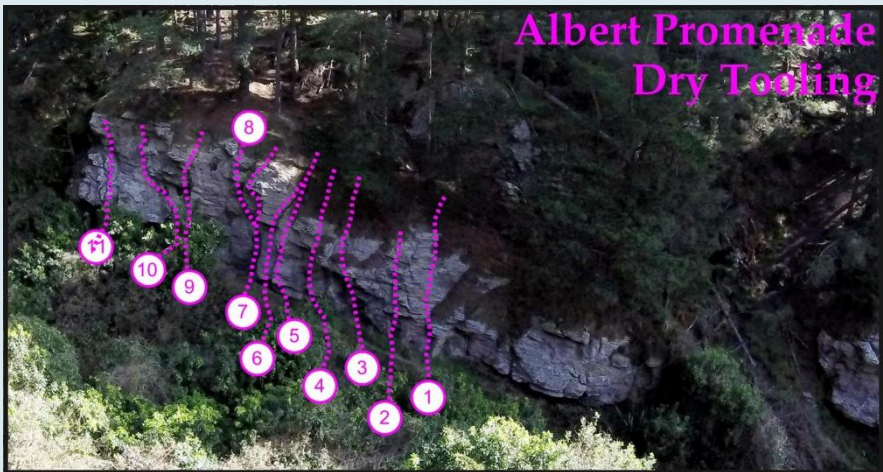
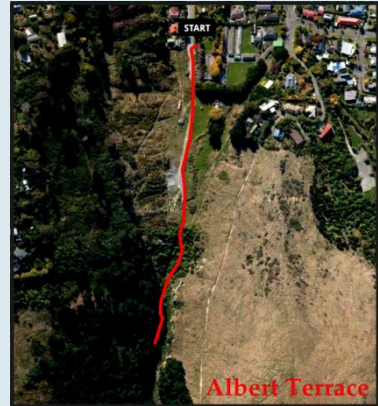
The majority of the routes opposite, and up either side of the valley, from Albert Terrace have, historically, been climbed or soloed as rock routes, however the quality and cleanliness of the routes is testament to their popularity and of late they have become the haunt of the "Lesser Spotted Dry Tooler", a shy creature with little tendency to socialize.

Approach:

6 minutes

450 metres

From the parking at the end of Albert Terrace. Walk up the valley past the climbing area until you come to a second crag which is about 25mts long and 4 to 5 mts high



1. The wall just left of the blue green graffiti
2. Moving leftwards the slightly bulging wall with a wide black streak at the bottom
3. Just right of an overhanging corner up to and over the nose
4. There is a white streak under the roof, up the wall just left of this past a shorter

white streak

5. The arête about three mts left of the roofed corner
6. The wall between the two arête so with a crack on the left exit up the slab
The wall gets a bit taller now and there is an old bolt at HL.
7. The groove that leads up in to a capped corner
8. Start in the same groove but go out and round to the left
9. The capped roof left of the old bolt line
10. Same start but wander out left onto the slab then over the bulge below the tree
11. AD 1997: Through the roof of the same name

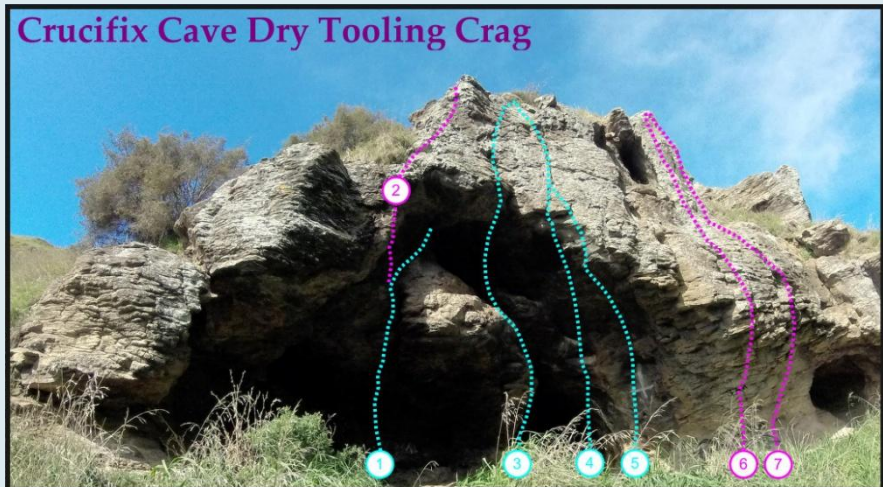
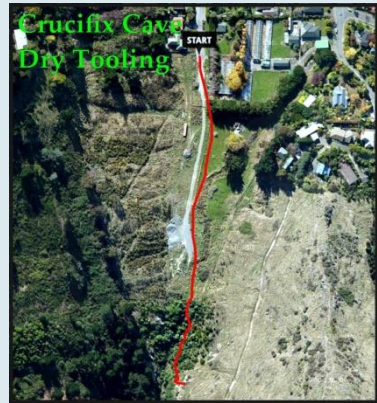
CRUCIFIX CAVE DRY TOOLING CRAG

Approach:

5 minutes

350 metres

The crag with its prominent cross can be seen from the parking area. From the parking at the end of Albert Terrace. Walk up the valley a track leads off to the left before you get to the rock climbing area, head up the hill to the crag. A small buttress with a deep cave.



-
1. Left hand side of the main cave is roof crack and a single bolt, up this to the ledge, single anchor in the higher cave
 2. Alternative, same start but carry on round the next roof and the wall above
 3. Just left of the of the main cave entrance there is a bolt up on the right facing wall, up past the bolt then up the steep exit groove
 4. Just right of the of the main cave entrance, up through the three bird lime pockets, up over the final bulge and the wall above
 5. Two metres right of the main cave entrance, featured wall leading to a blank roof, head rightwards, up around the upper bulge and then the upper wall
 6. Just right of the black tagging a metre off the ground up the bulging wall and the centre of the pinnacle above
 7. Right again, about a metre left of the small cave at low level, up the bulging wall and the right side of the pinnacle above