

PORTHILLS CLIMBING

CATTLESTOP

Cattlestop Crag
Tony Burnell (2017)

CATTLESTOP CRAG

General

One of the most extensive of the local crags with 108 routes & one of the crags on the Port Hills that I suspected would suffer severely from the 2010/2012 earthquakes, however this appears not to have been the case, there were the obvious blocks falling out & blocks loosened but no real damage or major collapses.

The majority of the routes have over a period of time been cleaned & climbed, then bolted then re-bolted & then had bolts added, the justification appears to be that it is in keeping with Britten crag, which is a bit like saying it's in keeping with Kalymnos, I have my own views on why routes get re-bolted, however suffice to say Cattlestop has a lot of short sport climbs.

The first climbs were recorded in the 70's, after being left to its own devices it was rediscovered in the 80's & pretty much worked out in the 90's. Despite its scruffy appearance the crag does have a few gems, and given it faces the sun & dries quickly it is pretty popular.

Location

Located on the town side of the Port Hills overlooking Heathcote Valley the crag has a pleasant outlook with lots flat ground at the base of the climbs.

Approach

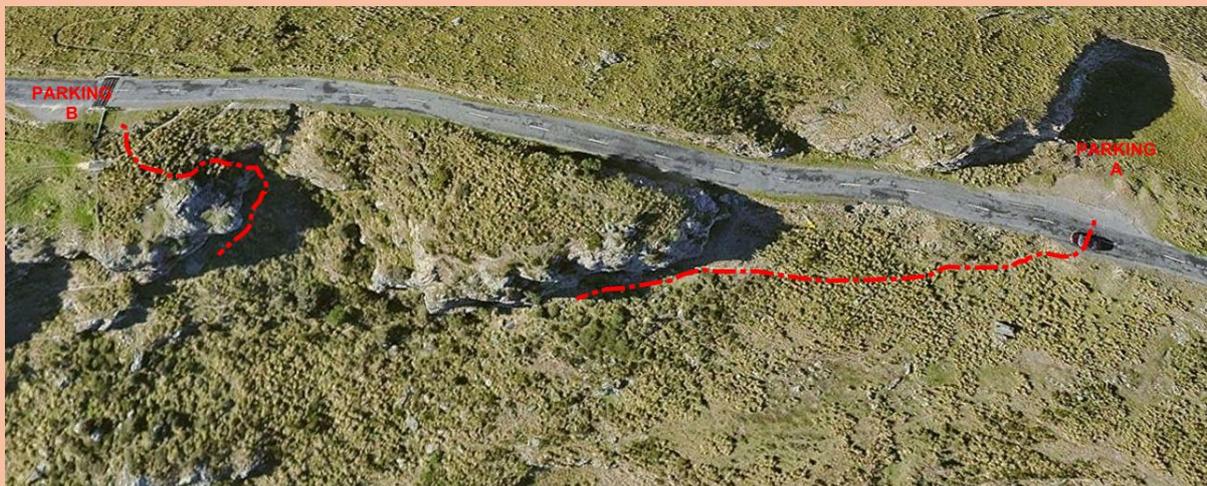
200 mts

5 minutes

From Mt Pleasant / Heathcote go up to Mt Pleasant to the Summit Rd & turn R drive along the top of the crag, over the cattle stop & downhill slightly to a large parking area on the L of the road. Cross go down some steps and contour along under the crag. The first area you come to will be *Ape Index Area*.

Alternatively park at the cattle stop & drop down the hill, then true L into the gully and follow the steps down to *Bull In A China Shop*.

Routes are described from R to L



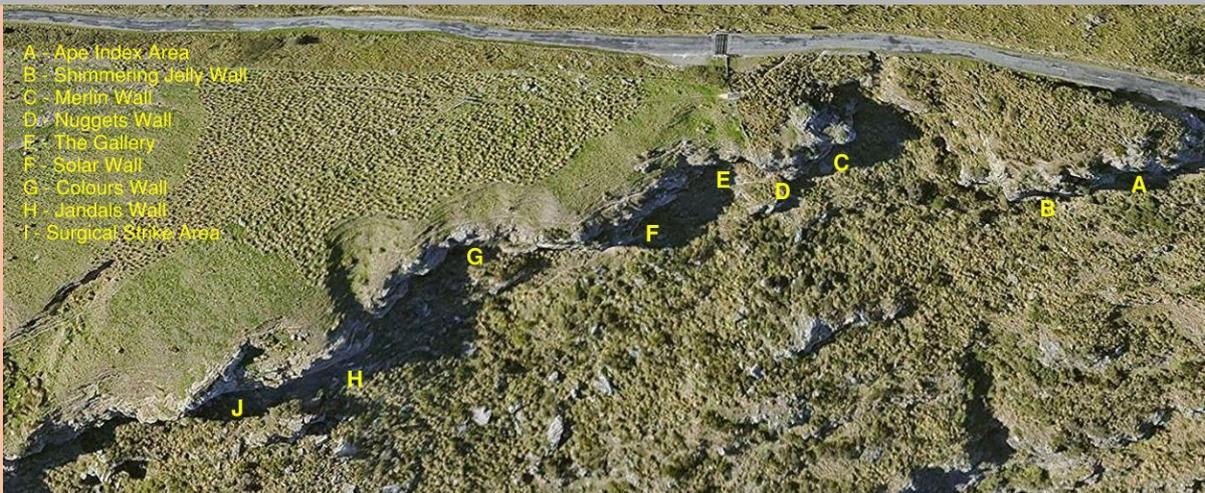
Climbing Notes

The crag is popular with beginners, schools & other instructed groups so please make allowances. none of the climbs exceed 15 metres and therefore the route length is imaterial. Around Jandals Wall are some anchor set-ups at low level for instruction purposes. Climb with care, test all holds before you pull on them, check your placements & wear a helmet. It's always a good idea to take a brush and clean the routes, it will be appreciated by the next visitor to the crag.

Routes marked in **RED** are sport climbs, routes marked in **GREEN** are either trad or mixed pro climbs. The following notation has been used Br - Bolts or Staples; Tr - Traditional Gear; Mp - Mixed Pro (a combination of both bolts and trad).

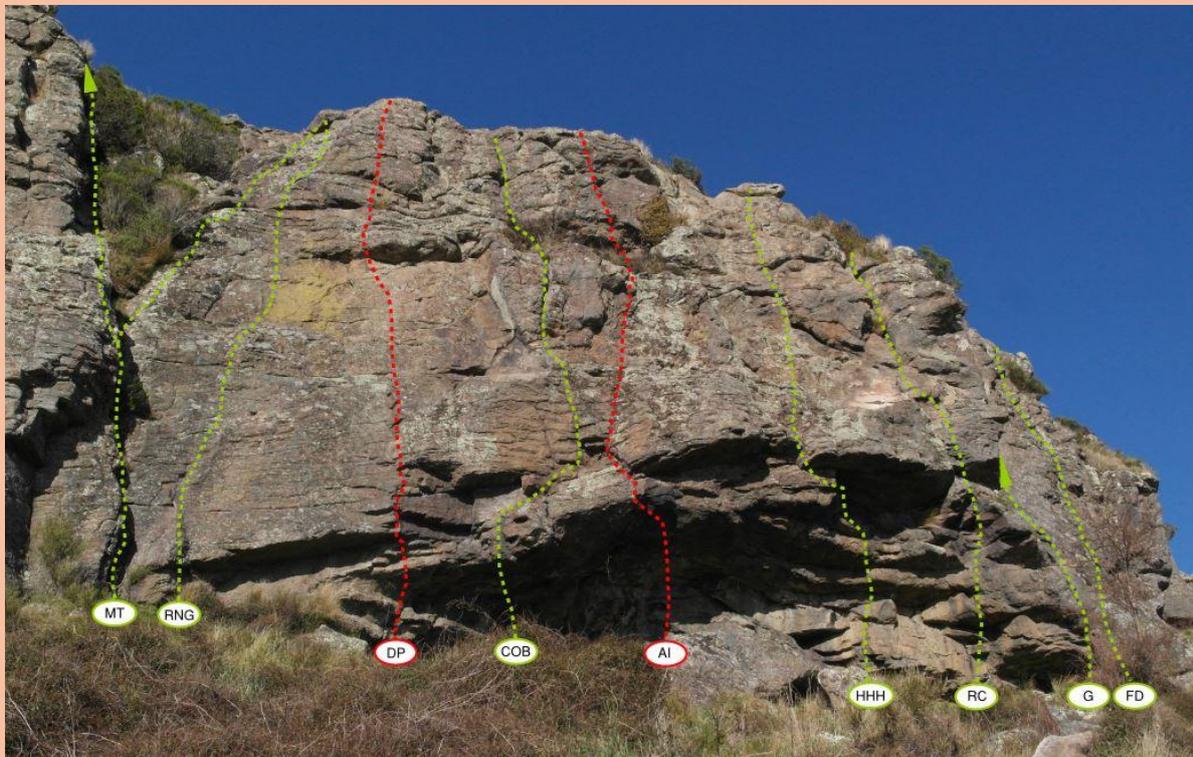
Stars, grades & comments are my personal ones.

ORIENTATION



APE INDEX AREA(9 Routes)

This is the first wall you come to when approaching from the car parking area on the Summit Road. At the West end is a plaque followed by a series of roofs, going to the L from here L is a series of corners followed by a large brown wall, this is Shimmering Jelly Wall.



Full Deck 12 - Tr - Start of the shelf down & L of the plaque, climb straight up the wall, where it backs off go L & up the scoop.

Gambling 14 - Tr Start off the shelf down & L of the plaque, go fisho baldly L & go up the corner groove.

Road Kill 19 - Tr At the right side of the roofs climb straight up, once over the roof go diagonally L & up through notch L f a nose. Lindsay Main, 1996

Heel Hook Hijinks 23 - Mp - Start approximately 1m R of a large block. Boulder up the overlaps to a BR, continue up the slabby wall above. Ben Gibbins, 2012

Ape Index 23 - 3Br - Just L of the large bloc, up through the roof via a crack system. Above the roof step R isn't a scoop & go straight up past BR3. Marcus Thomas, 2003

Chip Off The Old Block 19 - Mp - Start at the L end of the roof section, traverse in R & stand up. Go up & leftwards via a shallow groove & leaning corner above. Brett Gracie, 1992

★ ★ **Dead Possum 20 - 4Br** - Climb over the R end of an overlap past BR1 to gain a corner, up this and over the second overlap to exit. Pete Sykes, 1992

Reserves Need Gondolas 15 - Tr - Start at the L side of the wall by the R facing groove, step up & R onto the face then up t the yellow area, pass the L end of an overlap to the anchors. Neil Sloan, 1992

★ **Mouse Trap 13 - Tr** - The groove system at the L side of this wall. Jay Jellyman, 1999

SHIMMERING JELLY WALL (16 Routes)

This large wall brown wall with some corners at the R side

Lichenable 12 - 5Br - Start at the base of the blunt rib, straight up R edge, small roof on L into scoop above, follow the grooves to the top. Belay on L. Lindsay Main, 1981

★ **Rogue Rat 16 - 4Br** - Clip BR1 from the ledge, swing right & up onto the face. Continue easily to the top. Stu McConney, 1997

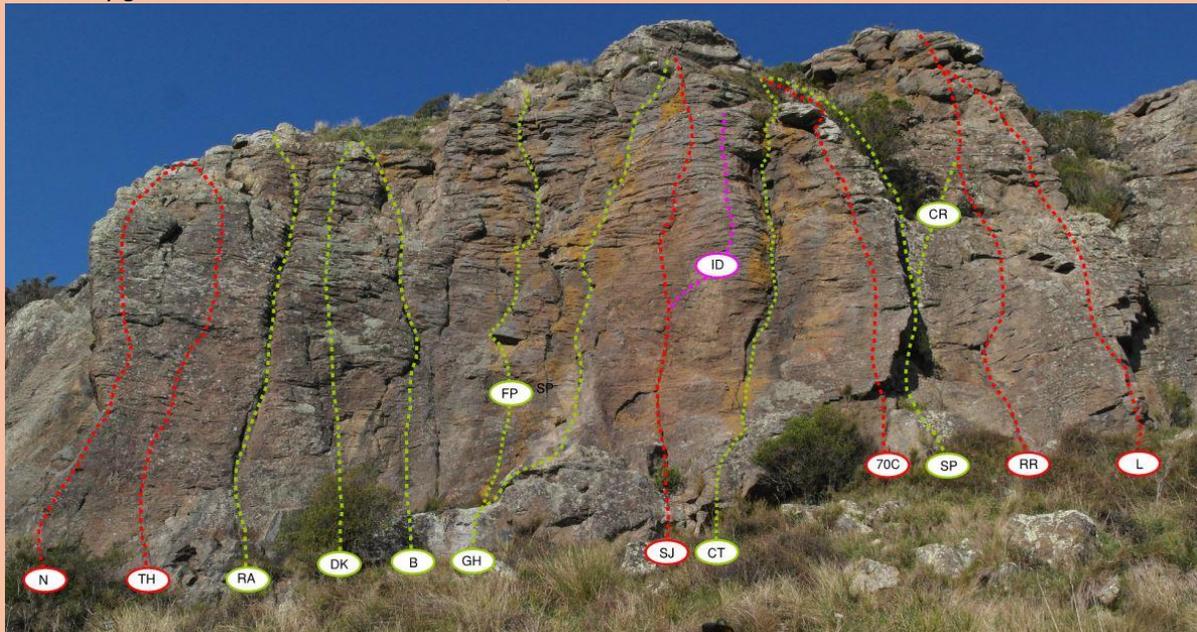
Crag Rat 16 - 3Br - Starts in the obvious corner system step R & finish as for RR. Go figure. Neil Sloan, 2011

Sacred Plummet 17 - The route doesn't really exist, it could be the arête proper, but 'A' there are no bolts & 'B' it's so close to 70C as makes no odds. Neil Sloan, 1992

★ **70 cents worth 19 - 5Br** - Start directly below arête & climb straight up, Stu McConney, 1999

Cold Turkey 17 - Tr - The obvious curving crack with a large ledge below, climb the crack into a recess, exit direct through the top. Lindsay Main, 1980

Intelligent Design 22 - 3Br - A poor variation that climbs the first half of SJ, makes a couple of hard pulls to reach easy ground or the crack of CT. Stu Allan, 2009



★ ★ **Shimmering Jelly 20 - 2Br** - One of the classics of this crag, climb straight up the brown wall to a shallow scoop, exit straight up with no deviations L or R. Pete Sykes, 1992

Gift Horse 12 - Mp - Go up through the earthquake scar & follow the large flake bare R to the SJ anchor. Good Gear. Lindsay Main, 1974

Fowl Play 13 - Mp - Climb straight up to a sharp cut flake, follow the crack & groove to the top. Lindsay Main, 1974

Bagatelle 16 - Tr - Climb the vague hour glass crack system. Lindsay Main, 1981

Dressed to Kill 16 - Tr - The dirty green wall just R of RA. Alan Hill, 1997

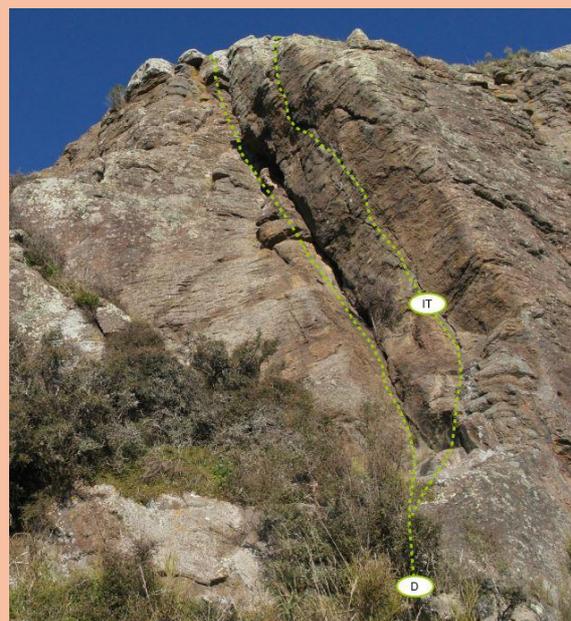
★ **Roadside Attraction 17 - Tr** - Follows the long shallow crack. Lindsay Main, 1980

Thin Hedgehog 19 - 3Br - Climb the centre of the steep face past 3BR. Richard Thomson, 1987

Nocuous 19 - Mp - Follow the L arête to the first BR at half height, continue up the wall R of the arête past 2 more Br. Marcus Thomas, 1994

In Tatters 20 - Mp - Left of Nocuous, climbing the overhanging brown wall, easier above the lone bolt After. Paul Tattersall, 1990

Deluge 10 - Tr - The wide leaning crack system, there is an old Br on the top of the climb.



MERLINWALL (12 Routes)

The next extensive series of walls you come to, there is a series of steps at the W end leading up to the road.

Hills Road 18 - Tr - Not Shown. The thin off balance crack line, just L of an easy corner, start off step 1. Joe Arts, 2000

Flap Flap 19 - 1Br - Not Shown. Start as for BIACS, but go R up the corner. Pete Sykes, 1992

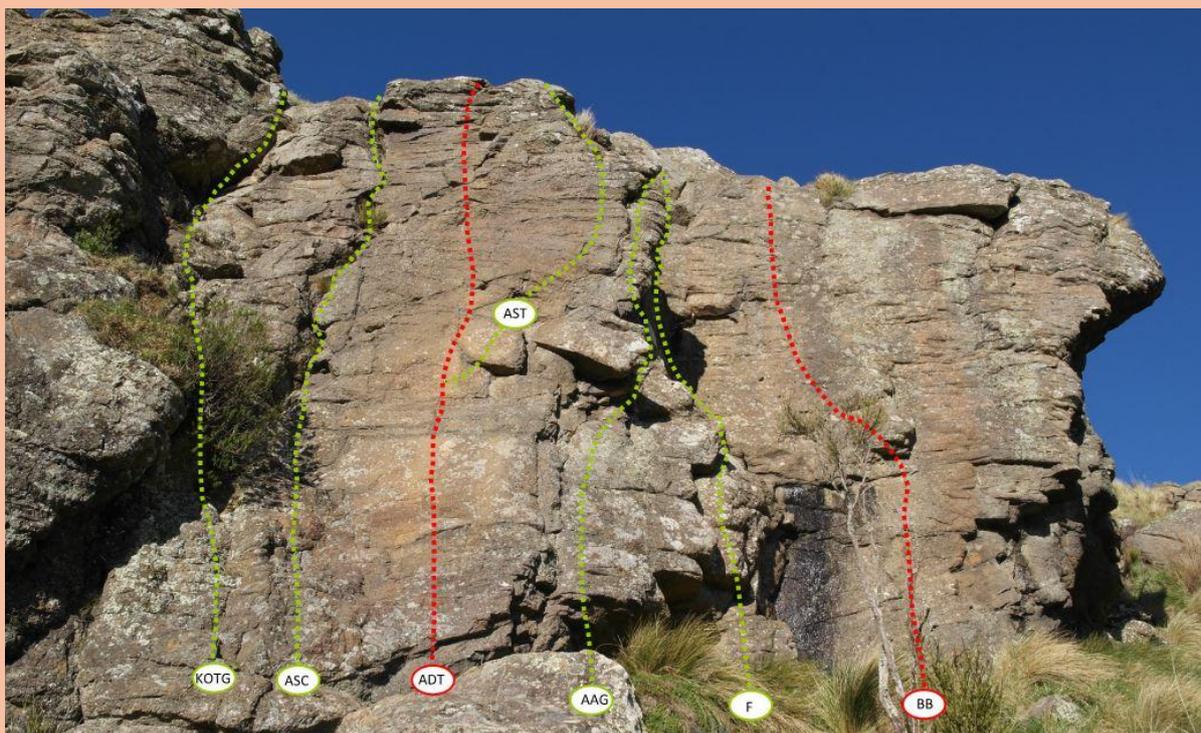
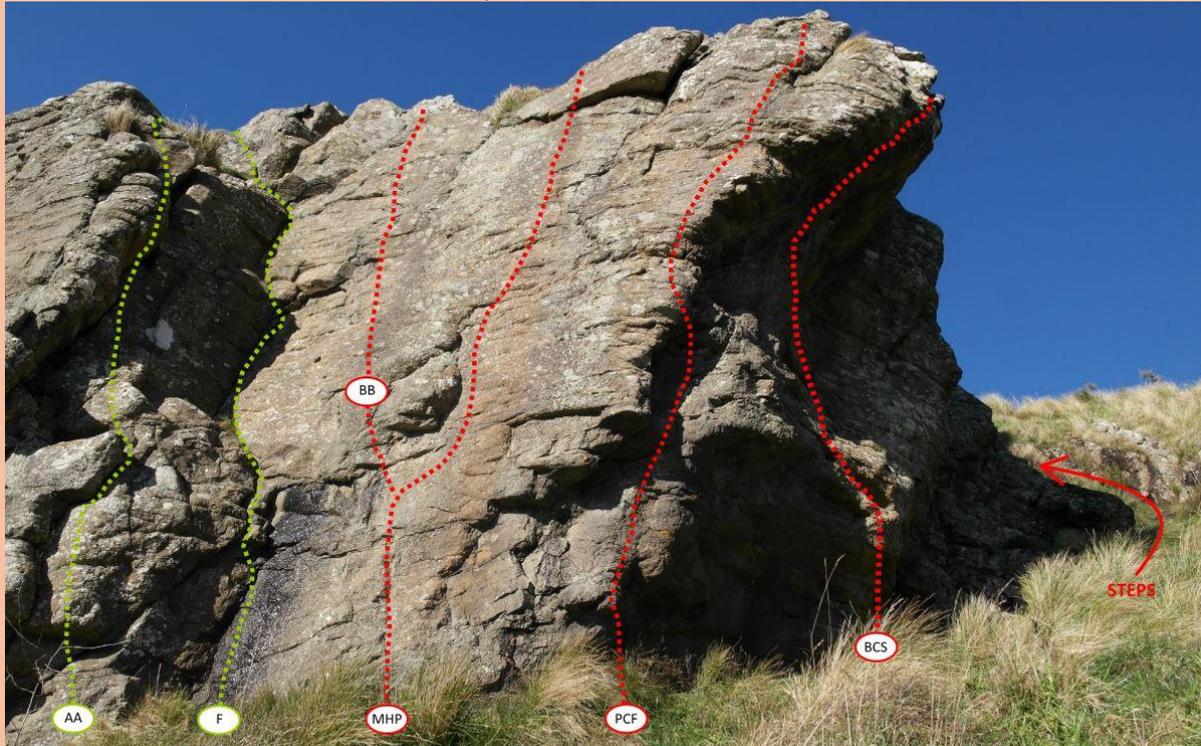
Bull In A China Shop 23 - Mp - Over the bulge just L of the steps & R of the arête, climb the prow Richard Kimberley, 1997

Pigs Can Fly 19 - 3Br - Start up the arête via two niches, before stepping L & going up the face. Simon Middlemass, 1992

★ **Merlin The Happy Pig 21 - 3Br-** Go straight up to the bulge & go R then up the clean streak.. Marcus Thomas, 1990

Basil Brush 19 - 3Br - Go straight up to the bulge then step L & go up DBB. Perry Logan, 1997

Fun 13 - Tr - The corner on the L reasonable protection.



All Aboard 13 - Tr - From the ground, swing up the right side of the arête.

A Slight Thud 15 - Mp - Start L of the arête and go up to the a BR in the middle of the face wall left of the arête. Step R and follow the thin seam to the prow then easily to the top. Richard Thomson, 1987

★ **A Dull Thump 17 - 3Br** - Climbs the centre of the wall with 3BR. Lindsay Main

A Sharp Crack 14 - Tr - The crack on the L side passing the Hebe

Keep off the Grass 14 - Mp - Start as for ASC, go around the vegetation till you hit rock, then up the open groove trending L to the last Br on PS.

NUGGETS WALL (11 Routes)

Just down at the toe of the buttress is a small roof in the blunt arête, this is the start of Nuggets Wall



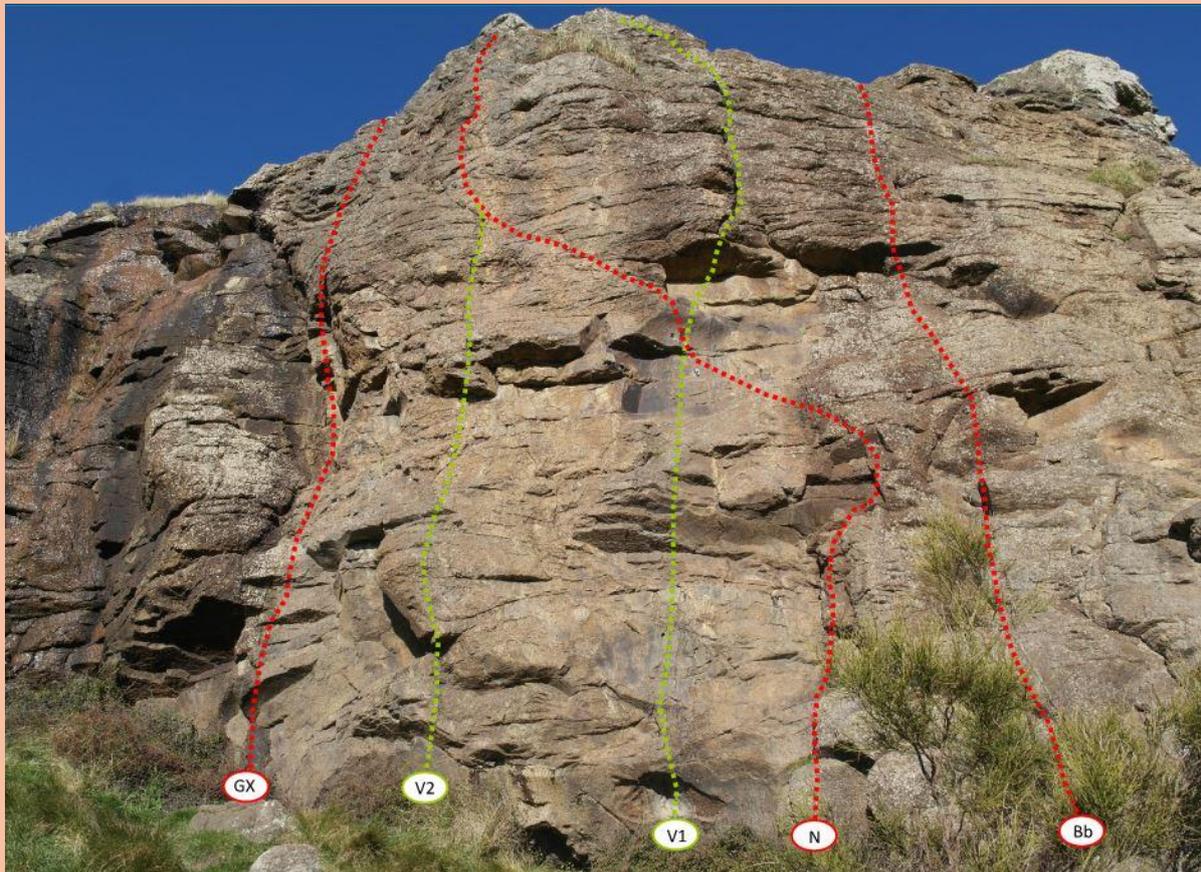
Please Stop 15 - 4Br - start just R of the shallow groove, up the slabby wall following the bolts Mike Atkinson & Jacqui Berry, 2005

★ **Please Procrastinate 15 - Tr** - The unnamed groove & the wall above.

Please Go 15 - 4Br - just before the track steps up hill start below a BR, go straight up the wall. Mike Atkinson, 2005

Backblocks 15 - 4Br - Start up the slabby wall to a BR near a triangular roof. follow line of bolts to finish Double bolt belay on R. Lindsay Main, 1998





★ **Nuggets 18 - 3Br** - Start at the L side of the yellow wall, a bizarrely contrived traverse line passing 3BR. Neil Sloan, 1992

★ **V1 16** - Start below BR1 of N, go straight up to BR1, continue straight up the vague groove in the head wall. Part of this was soloed by Simon Middlemass, the rest by Uncle Tom Cobbley & all.

★ **V2 17** - Start below BR3 of N, go straight up the wall between BR 2 & 3 of N,

Gully X 15 - 4Br - Climbs the corner at the L edge of the buttress.

Just to the L of GX is a grotty black wall, there are 3 micro routes / boulder problems

Carbonivorous 14 - Tr - Not Shown A little right is this very short corner entirely on black rock, originally done on minimal pro

Crystals 14 - Not Shown A short wall with a steep start, no real protection. Stu Allen, 2003

Stretching 15 - Not Shown On the left side of the small black wall, where the colour changes, is this broken crack. Anchor to a large block. Easier to solo than to lead as it's steep where you need to place gear. Joe Arts, 2003

THE GALLERY (2 Routes)

Up above the track a small band of buttresses

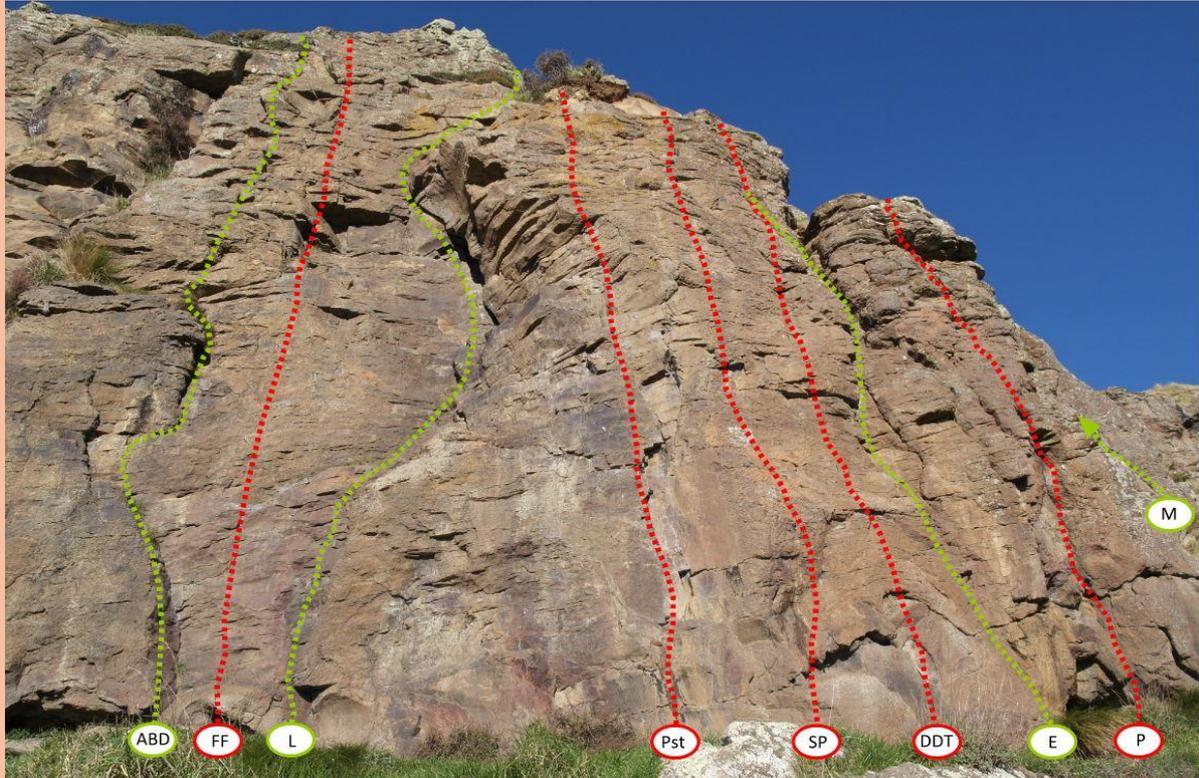
Micro Climate 14 - 3Br - The short steep face approx. buttress 20m L of N. Lindsay Main, 2003

S★ **pace Dust 22 - 3Br** - On the short slabby wall L of MC. Move onto the face from the L side, then up the centre of the wall. Marcus Thomas, 1999



SOLAR WALL (12 Routes)

The next large wall you come to heading East, Solar Wall has some really nice climbing



Marginal 14 - Tr - Start at the very L side of the buttress before it runs uphill. Climb the stepped arête, move R through a diagonal groove, go over the roof at a R facing corner. Lindsay Main, 1998

Pinched 20 - 2Br - Climbs the shallow L facing corner to a ledge, then go straight up to the top. Neil Sloan, 1992

★ **Electricorpse 17m - Mp** - The crack that leads up to the chimney groove, move L above half height past a BR. DBB Neil Sloan, 1992

★ **Dance To A Different Tune 20 - 3Br** - Start at the short vertical crack near the middle of the face. Straight up past BR1 to BR2, clip the BR on the R before topping out. Simon Middlemass, 1992

★ **Solar Powered 20 - 4Br** - The wall just to the R, climb up on to a pedestal at 2.5mts. Up the arête for 2mts then straight up the face. Neil Sloan, 1992



★ **Pssst 19 - 4Br** - The shallow corner on the left, start off the ledge Pat 1.5mts. Pretty much straight up moving R onto the face past the last BR.

Lizard 16 - Tr - Follows the big curving corner crack, start on the L at the bottom of the crack. Bridge up the steep section & step R to finish easily. Neil Sloane, 1992

★ **Footloose and Fancy Free 17 - 4Br** - Start in the centre of the shallow 'V', straight up the wall to the small roof, turn it on the L, then straight up again. The last BR needs moving. John Entwisle, 2000?

Another One Bites The Dust 16 - Tr - Start just L at the L leaning crack, up this move R to the flake crack & ledge, finish through the groove with the big bush above. Lindsay Main, 1996

Another One Bites The Bushes 15 - Tr - The thin crack to the L, up this to a sawn off bush with a ledge above. Go L and continue up the new scarring. Neil Sloan, 1998

★ **Amnesia 15 - Tr** - At the L end of the buttress is a wide shallow recess, climb the R side to jammed blocks, easier now to the top, 2 chains. Stu Allan, 1996

Anomaly 14 - Tr - The L side of the recess, up the initial wall and across the grass to a head wall, single chain anchor on top. Lindsay Main, 1996

COLOUR WALL (4 Routes)

A small bitsy buttress sporting some Trad lines, there is one central anchor on top of this area.



Red 17 - Tr - Start on the uphill side in a corner under the bulge, slightly R through the bulge, then L to the anchor of W. Neil Sloan, 1998

White 16 - Mp - Moving down hill start at the L end of the roof, move up onto the slabby wall above trending R then up to the top. Neil Sloan, 1998

Blue 16 - Tr - Start down & L below the arête climb up to the arête then the crack above. Neil Sloan, 1998

Orange 15 - Tr - 2.0mts L is a corner leading to a bulge, over the bulge & the wall above before going L to finish. Neil Sloan, 1998

FOOTWEAR WALL (10 Routes)

If you believe all you read there should be 9 bolted climbs across the main area of Footwear Wall, unfortunately you can climb almost anywhere, so there are around 15 legitimate variations, however, given that the bolt matrix on the main wall only allows for 8 lines and the information available suggests 9 someone has missed out here.

Jandals 10 - 3Br - Climb slabby wall at the R end of the buttress(the first line of 3Br)

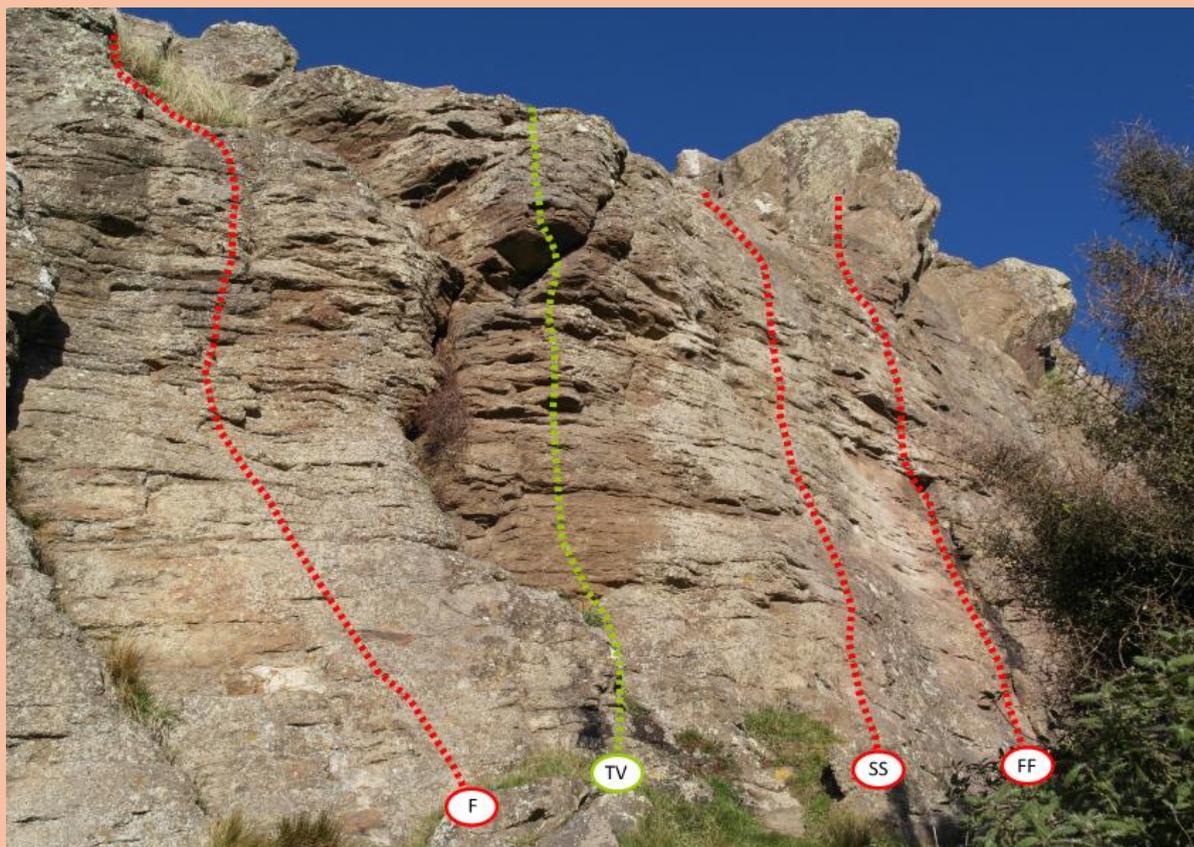
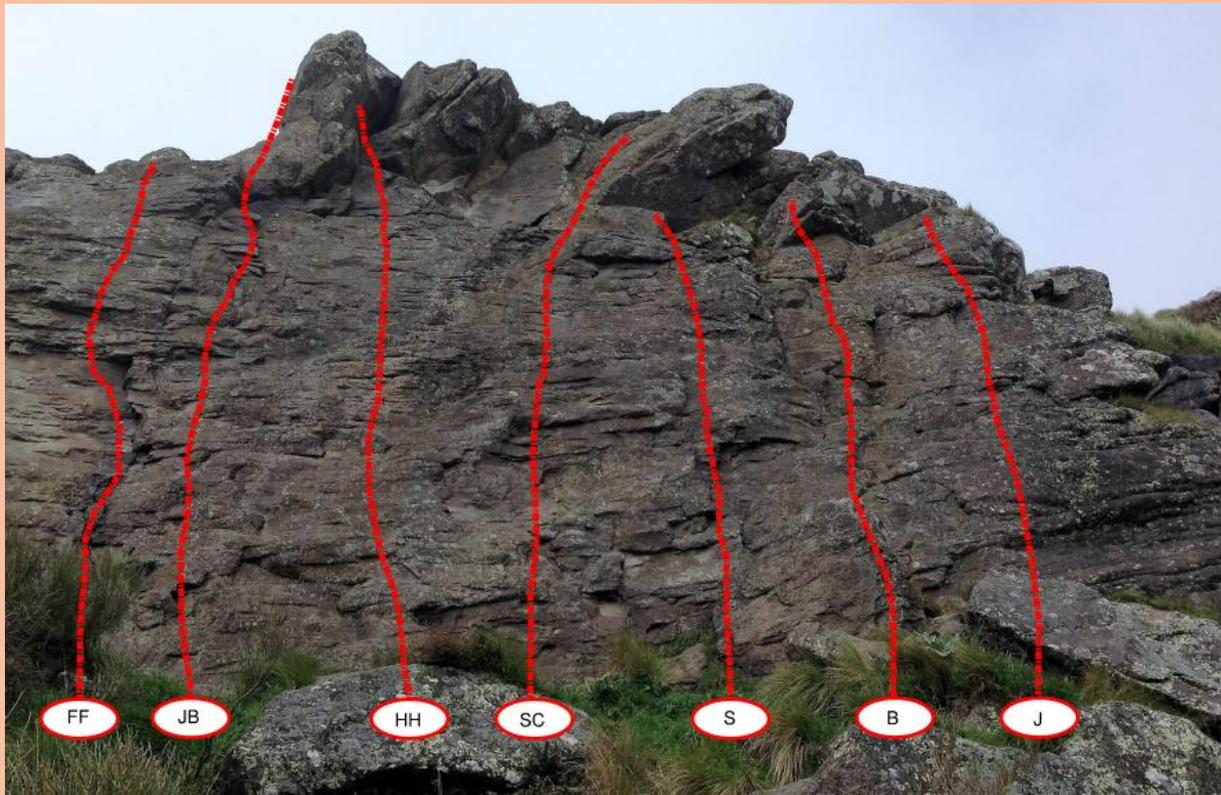
Barefoot 8 - 3Br - Climb to the L of J utilising 3Br to the R of a shallow groove. Martin Atkinson, 2005

Sneakers 12 - 3Br - Straight up the wall utilising 3Br to the L of the shallow groove. Martin Atkinson, 2005

Steel Caps 14 - 4Br - A direct line up the slabby wall with an anchor on the prow shaped rock. Phil Stuart-Jones, 1996

High Heels 13 - 4Br - Straight up the wall to a belay in the sentry box. Lindsay Main, 1996

Jack Boot 13 - 3Br - Climbs a line using the Br to the R of the weakness. Richard Kimberley, 2003



Fast Forward 16 - Mp - Up the wall two metres left, climbing the face between the bolts on SS and LB. Shares a bolt with SS. Stu Allan, 1996

Sensible Shoes 14 - 3Br - About a metre left, and a metre right of a vague crack. Originally soloed wearing street shoes and wearing a pack. Stu Allan (solo), 1996

Tunnel Vision 14 - Tr - A metre left of sensible shoes on the edge of the wall. Climb up on good holds, exiting over the bulge just left of the top crack. Phil Stuart-Jones (solo), 97

The Filler 15 - 3Br - A tiny wall between 2 vegetated cracks About 5 metres left is an prominent red wall, with a steep lower part and a small overlap in the centre. Phil Stuart-Jones (solo), 1997

THE GREATER SURGICAL STRIKE AREA (17 Routes)

The large buttress to the L, this wall contains some real gems Surgical Strike, Midnights Children & Passage to India to name 3, unfortunately it is starting to suffer from some over enthusiastic sanitization.

Whamo 19 - 2Br - A scruffy climb with ground fall potential direct up the wall past 2Br before moving L to the top of VC. Marcus Thomas, 1999

Violet Crumble - 20 3Br - Now a sport climb, move quickly up into the flake system & good holds, easier to the top. Bruce Dorwick, 1990

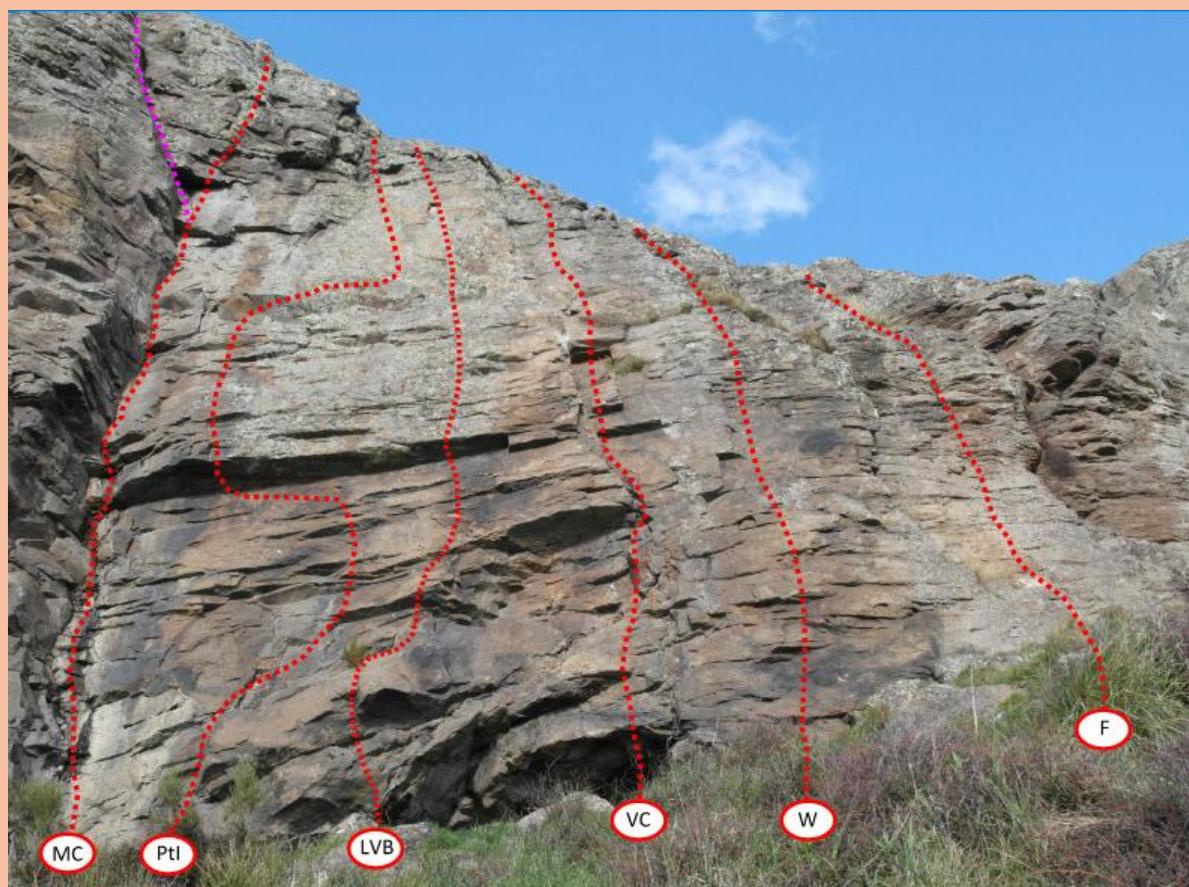
La Vita Belle 25 - 3Br - A not very satisfying climb due to the proximity of the R arête, start R of POI climb up to & over the roof then the wall above to join POI. Andrew Buist, 2005

★ **A Passage to India 23 - 3Br** - Start at the left end of the roof, go diagonally R past the (new) Br then back L to the lip, once over the roof traverse R about 1.5mts then straight up to easy ground. Paul Tattersall, 1990

★ ★ **Midnights Children 22 - 3Br** The corner to the R of PTI climb straight up, finish straight up a short steep head wall. Pete Sykes, 1990

★ ★ **Surgical Strike 21 - 5Br** - Wander up the arête first on the R then back left at the last bolt go straight up the steep wall. Lindsay Main, 1996

★ **Satanic Verses 20 - 5Br** - The large corner groove sporting large holds and potentially suspect blocks. Exit direct at the top for maximum value. Paul Tattersall, 1990

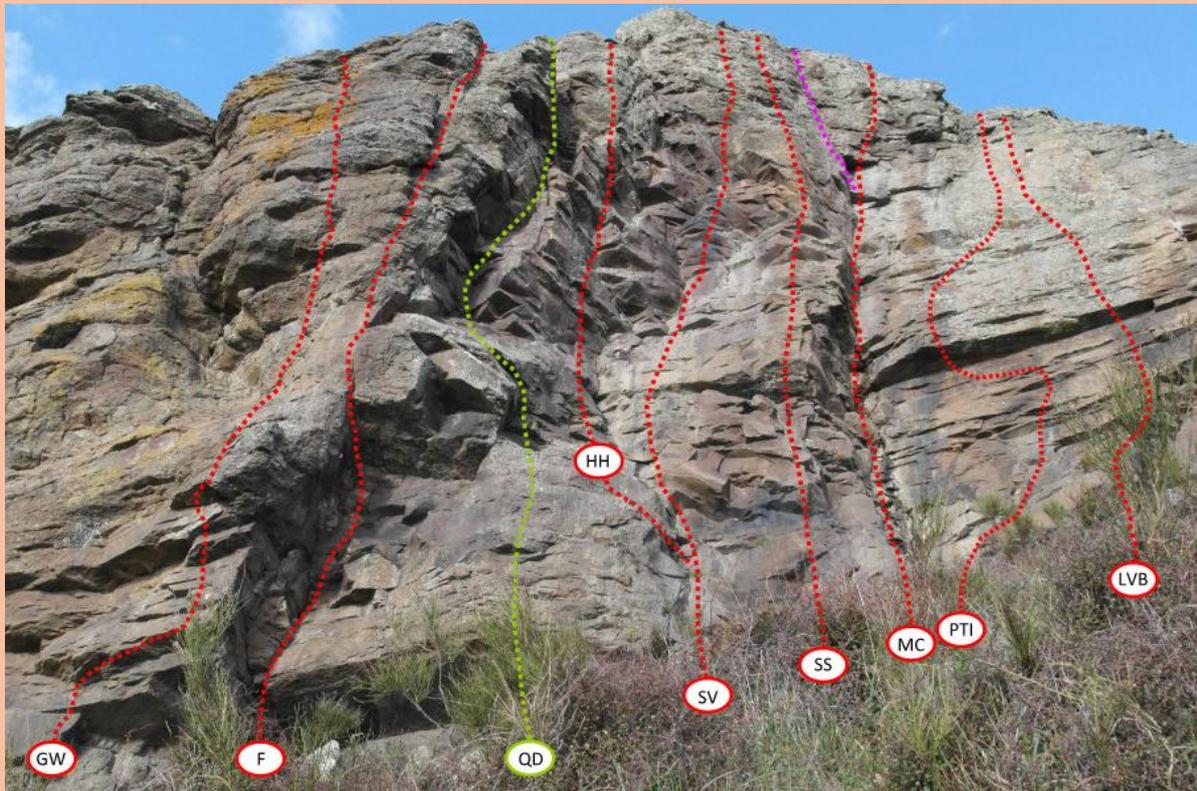


Hotter Than Hades 19 - 4Br - Move across from the R to Br1 then climb straight up the wall. Simon Courtois, 2012

Quick & Dirty 18 - 4Br - The groove system L of HTH. Phil Stuart-Jones, 1996

★ **Fiesta 21 - 5Br** - Start in the corner near the large pointy block, tricky moves get you up to the arête continue up the crack system above. Phil Stuart-Jones, 1996

★ **Gutless Wonder 24 - 4Br** - Climbs over the roof right of CT start on the L & traverse out carefully above the man eating blocks before climbing the left side of the arête to a ledge. Continue over the large roof, wire placement round to left, a hard move over the roof leads to easier climbing and the top. Tony Burnell, 1999



Cattle Thief 23 - Mp - To the L at about 3mts was an old Br in the wall marking an unclaimed/ unclimbed/ unrecorded climb. Start below the old Br above roof. For maximum pleasure climb directly over the roof to the Br using layaways, cunning and guile. From the Br move L & up to the break before going R to a resting ledge. Finish easily up the wide crack above. Tony Burnell, 1996

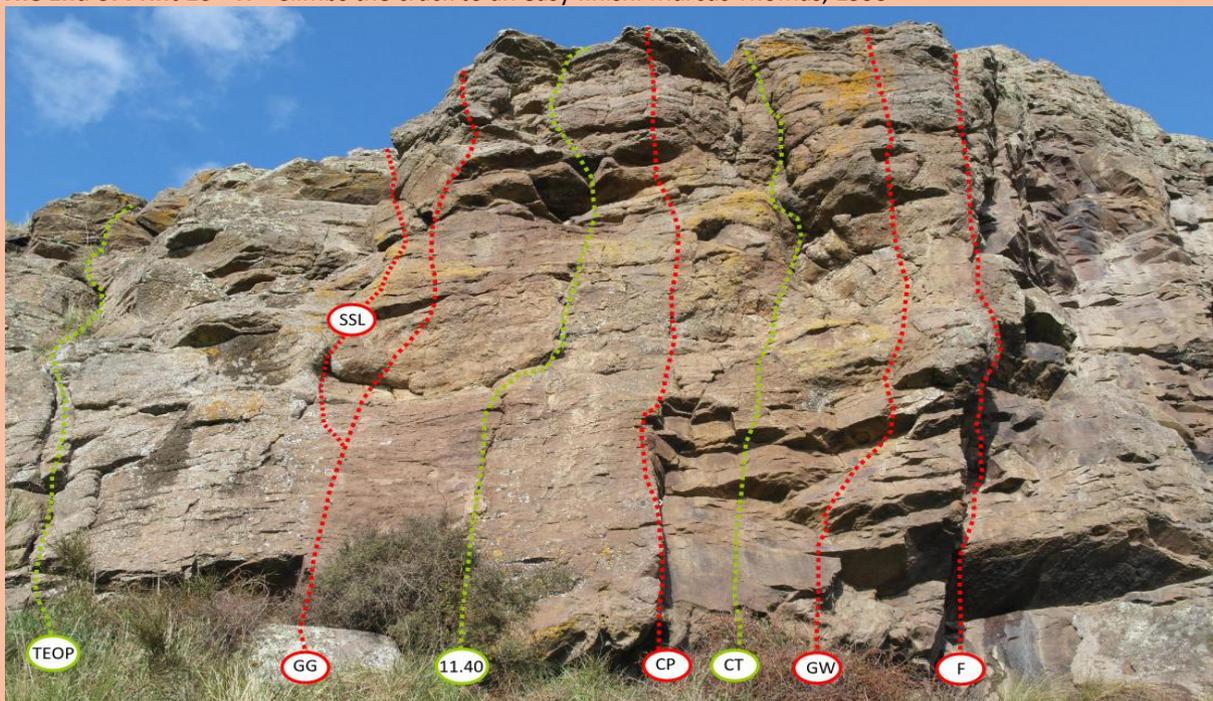
★ **Cattle Prod 22 - 4Br** - Starts on the undercut arête left of the CT roof. Boulder up to a break, slightly easier moves over the first bulge to the halfway band, then follow jugs through the bulge above. Originally done with reputedly 'grim' natural pro, but later bolted. Tony Burnell, 99

★ **11.40 20 - Tr** - A weak discontinuous crack running up through two horizontal breaks followed by a stack of bulgy ledges after the grunty start the route continues to ease. Phil Stuart-Jones, 96

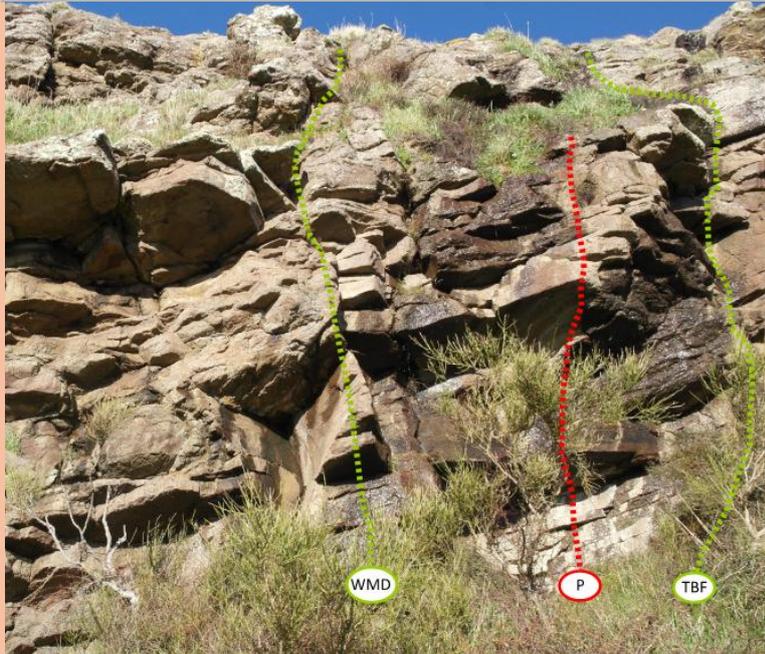
★ **Group Grope 21 - 4Br** - Faint line up the wall leading to a low-angled corner. Boulder problem start past 2 bolts, and continue up the arête past another 2 bolts. 2-ring anchor. Simon Courtois, 2000

Simons Bolted My Line 21 - Mp - Struggle up the same start as Group Grope, then place protection and finish up the easy corner-crack. Shares GG's 2-ring anchor. Marcus Thomas, 1999

The End of Print 16 - Tr - Climbs the crack to an easy finish. Marcus Thomas, 1999



THEN THERES THE REST (10 Routes)



If we ramble on leftwards just slightly downhill we have some real gems

The Bomb Factory 14 - Tr - The corner with the deadly looking blocks protruding out (best avoid the blocks). Marcus Thomas, 2000
Pop 20 - 2Br - Like a good pop song it should take about 3 minutes, follow the bolts L through the roof to big jugs. Marcus Thomas, 2000
Weapons of Mass Destruction 16 - Tr - Short & steep, with good pro, tricky start. Lindsay Main, 2003



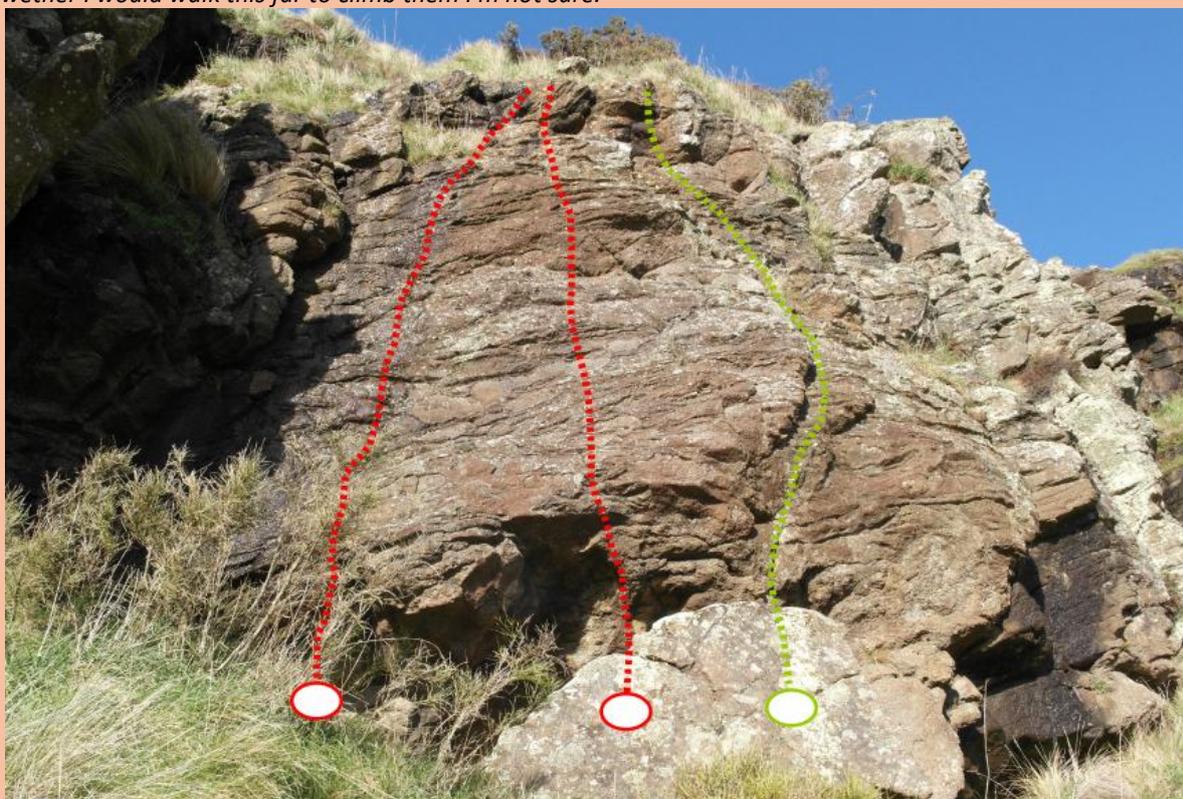
Fingers Fred 20 - 4Br - Climbs the steep edgy wall & groove R of JASJ. John Entwisle, 2010

★ **Just a Short Juan 19 - 5Br** - The Little Big Rock is this short route. Face climbing to start, followed by steepening climbing on brittle edges. Simon Courtois, 2001

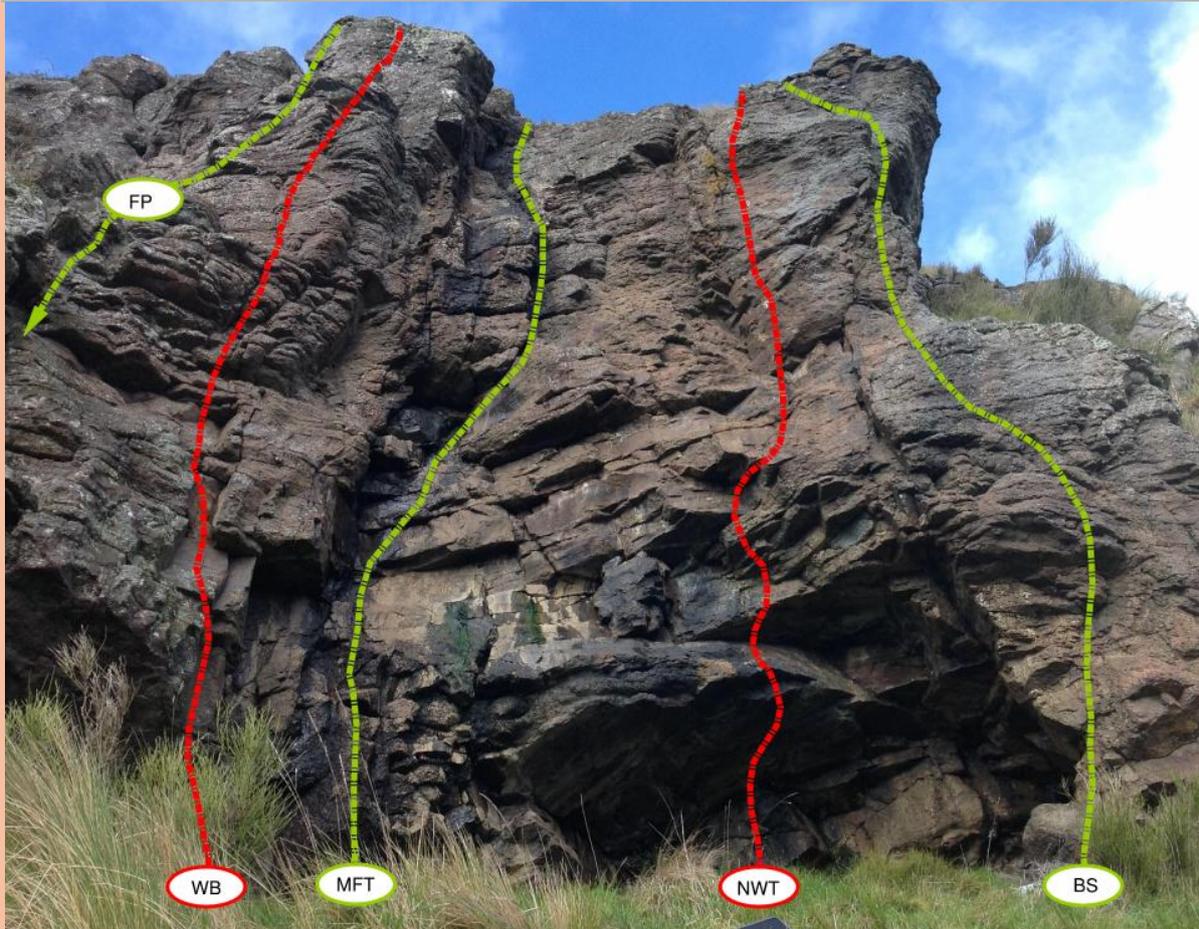


Approximately 20 mts L down the hill is a council sign post warning of the dangers, just behind this post is a slabby green, lichenous wall sporting 2 bolted lines

Down th hill a little further we come to another short black wall sporting 2 bolted lines and a mixed pro line, wether I would walk this far to climb them I'm not sure.



LITTLE EIGER WALL (5 Routes)



Baby Steps 16 - Tr - Climbers right arete, takes a smaller range of protection, particularly for the airy finish. Justin Hall & Chloe Armour, 2016

Negotiating with a Toddler 18 - 5Br - Climb the features to the left of the line of bolts. Overhanging and sustained to the top. Justin Hall & Hamish Castle, 2016

My First Time 16 - Tr - The left hand groove / corner. Average protection. Hamish Castle & Justin Hall, Jan 2016

Working Bee 15 - 4Br - Start just left of "My First Time" and at the top avoid the easy exit of "False Pretences" and stick to the face. Justin Hall & Ben Scott, 2016

False Pretences 15 Climbers left arête, graded for the start, otherwise an 11, still pleasant and worthwhile. Justin Hall & Ben Scott, 2016

If you continue downhill another 10/15 metres towards Britten Crag there are some more bolted lines and undoubtedly more beyond that.