

# Bivvy Crag & the Air Traffic Control Buttress

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Revision 'E' (2019)  
Tony Burnell



# BIVVY ROCK AND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL BUTTRESS

## General

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

Both Bivvy Rock & the Air Traffic Control Buttress overlook the Governors Bay / Allendale area of Lyttelton Harbour. Simon Courtois started the development at Bivvy Rock back in 2007 & continued after the 2010/2011 Canterbury earthquakes. The Air Traffic Control Buttress was also developed by Simon following the 2010/2011 earthquakes.

The next wave of development was after the Port Hills fires with Simon Courtois back at the ATCB & Grant Piper & friends at Bivvy Rock. Most recently Simon & Tony Burnell have been back at both Bivvy Rock & the Air Traffic Control Buttress adding several lines including some steeper, hard routes.

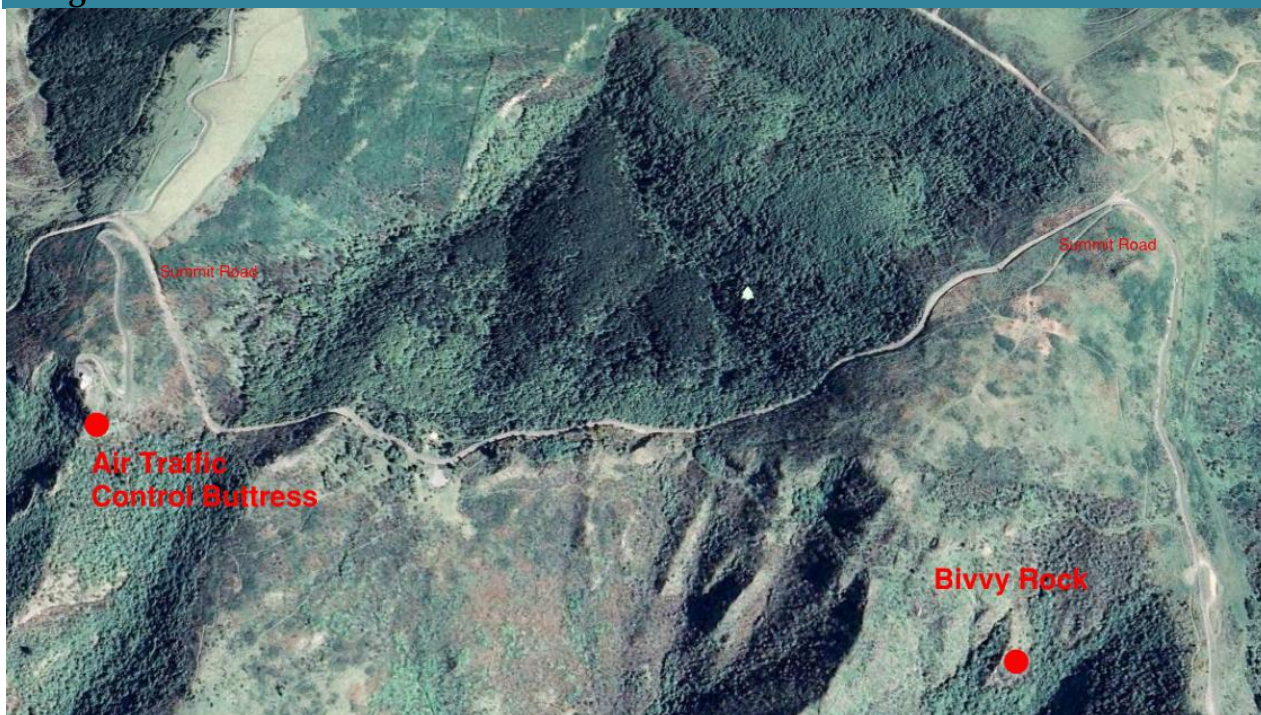
The fire did damage the rock so expect some loose stuff & a lot of ash & dust; by carrying a brush (& using it) you can help keep the routes clean & in good condition & also prevent the re-colonisation of broom, gorse & blackberry.

The rock is coarse grained in parts & rough to the touch.

All routes are equipped with bolts/staples & anchor stations. By choosing to climb here you accept responsibility for your 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. 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 conventional Bolt, St denotes stainless steel staple & Cl denotes chain links.

## Crag Locations



## Bivvy Rock

A collection of buttresses both steep & slabby located just above Ella Track opposite Kennedy's Bush on the Summit Rd approximately 3.0km from The Sign of the Kiwi.

There is very little seismic damage & little in the way of loose rock at the top.

Grades are subjective, if people feel a change is required after comparison with other areas please let me know.



## Location

Parking at Kennedys Bush

Parking GPS Location: -43.6240018, 172.628438

Distance: Distance: 600 mts

Walk Time: 8 minutes

From the parking walk West along the Crater Rim Walkway, then turn L along Ella track at the "Rockfall Hazard Warning" sign post, contour round under the crag & past a land slip, at the end of the crag a short track leads back up right to the "Central Area". To get to No.2 slab continue along Ella Track for a few metres.



## Overview



## Siesta Wall

At the time of writing the climbs on Siesta Wall are covered in dirt due to some enthusiastic grass sod pulling at the top of the wall, but no cleaning.

Routes are described from Right to Left

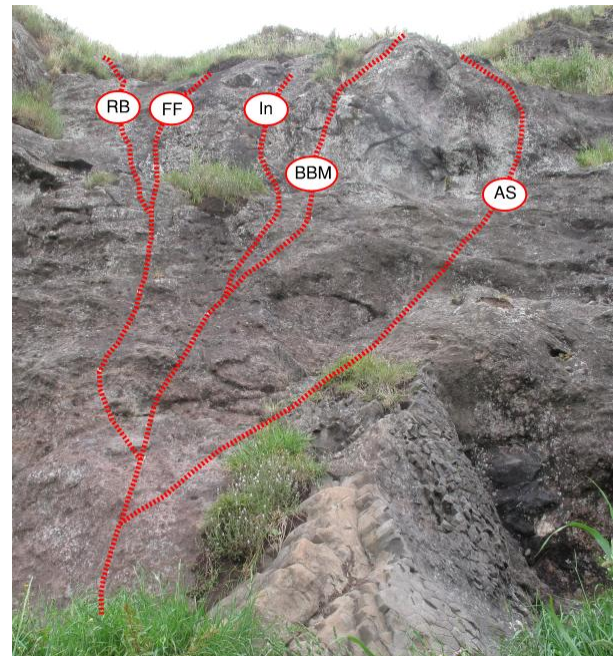
**AS - Awake to Shake 17, 7Br** - From the start of staple on the slab, move right and up following 4-5 bolts climbing over a steep step near the top. 2 bolt anchor

**BBM - Broke Back Mountain 19, 7Br** - Go 2/3rds the way up Insomnia, move right then scum up a groove, grab the saddle horn and ride... move up & right on friction finish

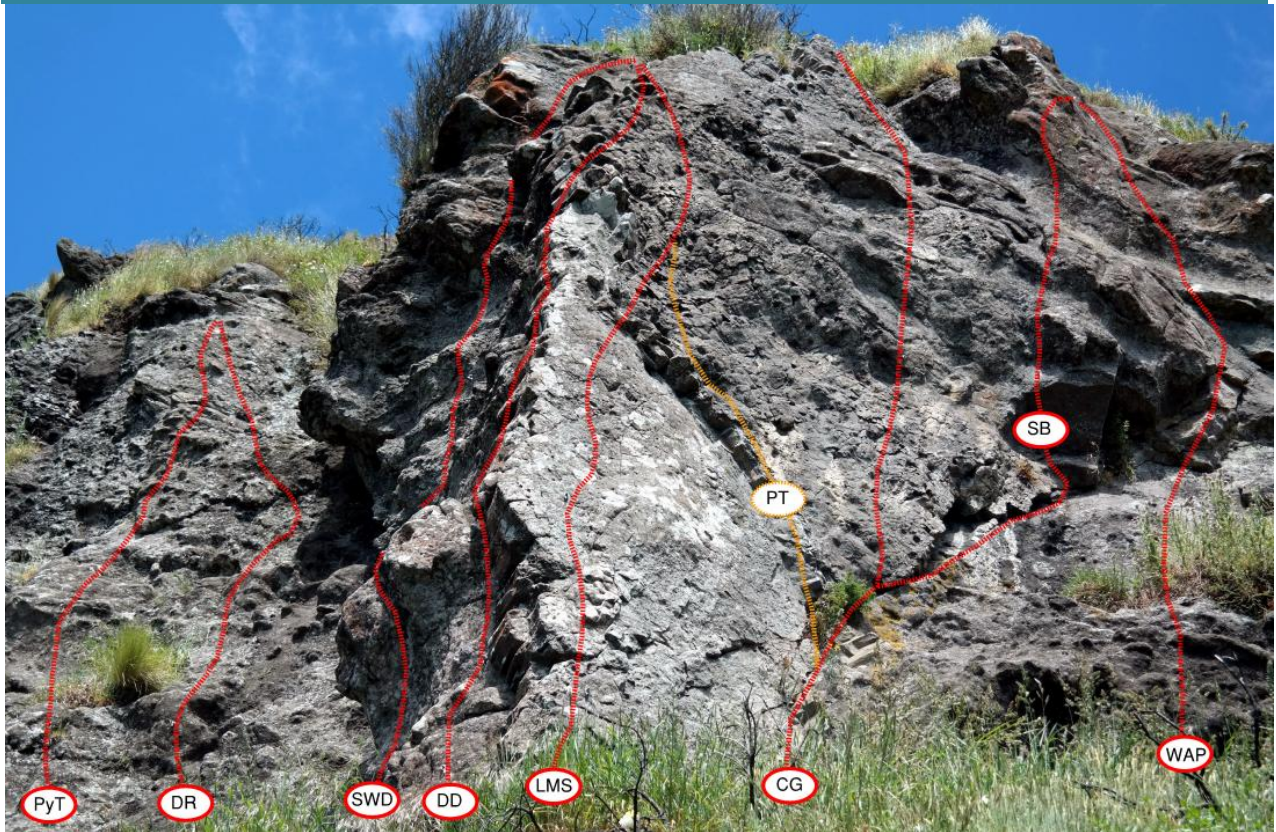
**In - Insomnia 17, 7Br** - Go up and right of "RB" Line of bolts up black streak. Steepens at top, lots of bolts

**FF - Faux Fur 17, 7Br** - Instead of traversing left on previous route at 4/5 bolt go up thru to anchors above grassy ledge. There is a different set of chains (right of "RB").

**RB - Rupert's Blanket 16, 7Br** - A line of bolts up a water streak. Good climbing. At 4th bolt move L & clip bolt out R on "FF" (with plenty of extension) to protect crux, then move up to a 2 bolt anchor up & L of water streak, tricky finish Wendy & Simon Courtois 2007







### Descriptions (Right Side)

*Routes are described from Right to Left*

**WAP - We Ain't Playing Tiddly-Winks Mate - 20** - Pre-named before being climbed in 2012. Howie McGee, 2012. Subsequently all but one or two bolts have been removed by persons unknown.

**SB - Sleeping Beauty - 21, 6Br** - Share first bolt with "CG" then move right. Move up pumpy bulge and delicately move up the arête to double bolt anchor. *Owain Scullion & Tom Stubbs 2017*

**CG - Cold Ground - 20, 5Br** - ("was my bed last night, and rock was my pillow too"). Run-out, start up the groove & crack system, once below the featured wall step L & go up just R of centre, towards the top go back R then L to the anchor station. *Dave Shotwell 2008*

**PT - Pillar Talk - 17 5Br** - *Simon Courtois 2007. Gone courtesy of the 2011 Earthquake*

**LMS - Let Me Sleep On It - 20 6Br** - ★★ The bolted line on the R side of the prominent arête, veer slightly R when you hit the black cobbles. Shares an anchor station with "DD" & "SWD". *Simon Courtois 2007*

### Descriptions (Left Side)

*Around the arête to the L are:*

**DD - Dirty Dream - 18, 8B/C1** - ★ This route climbs the arête on its L side, at the last bolt go straight up the rib to the top. Shares an anchor station with "LMS" & "SWD". *Simon Courtois 2012*

**SWD - Sleep When You're Dead - 18, 5Br** - A really dirty climb that starts in the shallow cave just L of "DD", go L to the first bolt & up into the prominent groove system, carry on up the wide crack to the obvious V-groove at the top. The first ascent mantled over the bulge on the R at the start, but it seems a bit contrived. Shares an anchor station with "LMS" & "DD". *Owain Scullion Tom Stubbs, 2016*

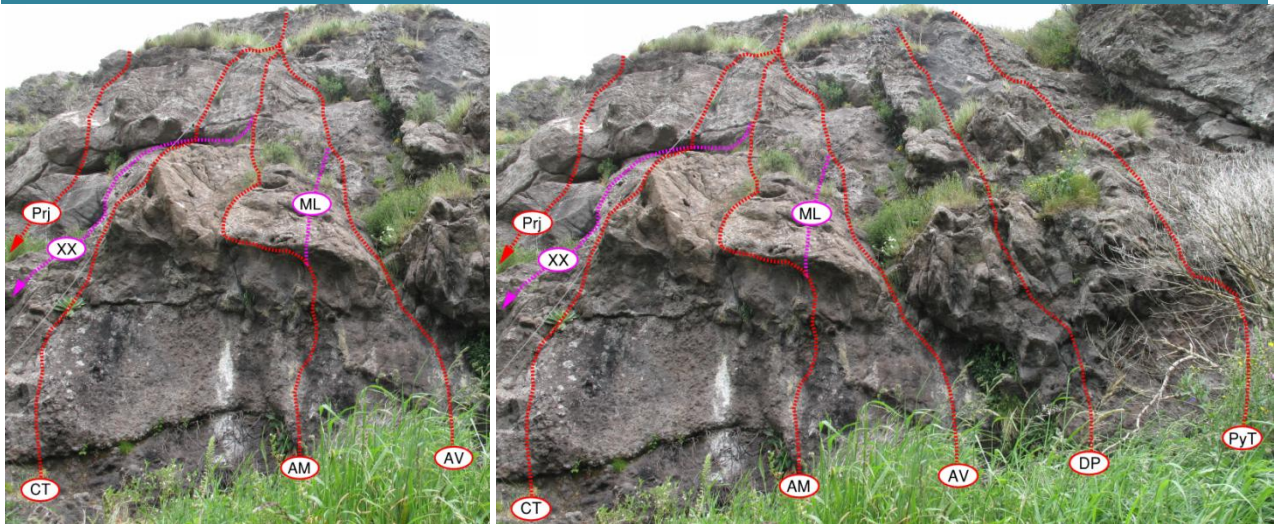
**DR - Duncans Route - 18, 7Br** - Left angling line of bolts, with good climbing cranking through chicken-heads at the bottom, then cruise through the mid section to enjoy the crux near the top. 2 bolt anchor. *Duncan Sherratt, 6 April 2012.*

**PyT - Pyrotechnic - 21, 9Br** - ★ It's a shame that this climb is dirty as it does deserve a star. Starts under the overhang, with a low first staple, bouldery onto the bulge, move diagonally L to a hole Stp3. Straight up from here on good holds, anchor station sharp L at the top of the crag as for "DR". *Warrick Matheson 2017*

**Dustpipe 21, 7Br** - Start just R of "AV" straight up through steep rock L of Br1 & R of Br2 before going back L to Br3 from here straight up the easier groove system to the anchors. - *Tony Burnell, 28/03/2019*



## Central Area (two views)



## Descriptions

*The steeper wall to the L of "PyT"*

**AV - Ash Vegas - 21, 8Br** – ★ Start at the R side of the roof area just before the end of the ramp. Move past Br1 to a good hold on the R, lean out to clip Br2 before going L & up through the notch. Continue up easier ground staying R of Br5 before moving L & clipping the last 2 staples on "XX", then up to the anchor station. *Tony Burnell, 23/11/2018*

**ML - Missing Link - 22 7Br** – ★ Start under the centre of the roof, climb straight up past 2Br continue up to the lip make a dynamic move over the roof to a good hold R of Br3, finish up "AV". *Tony Burnell, 10/03/2019*

**AM - Annihilation Mix - 24 8Br** – ★ Start under the centre of the roof, climb straight up past 2Br, continue up to the lip then traverse L to the flake crack, up this to easy ground before finishing up the last 4 staples of "XX". *Tony Burnell, 23/11/2018*

**CT - Compression Test - 25+, 5 Br/2Stp** – ★★ Start at the very L end of the roof, make a difficult move onto the black face & go up the vague groove, cross the dyke & move R up a brown slab to a ledge. Climb the groove (crux) past 2Br, finish as for "AM/XX" clipping the last 2 staples before going to the anchor station. *Tony Burnell, 14/12/2018*

**XX - XX 21, 8Stp** - We thought this was pretty dirty, it appears it had been bolted about 18 months ago but not climbed. Start up the slab just L of the end of the overhanging section. After a short traverse R there is a blunt rib with 2Stp, climb this direct with difficulty (crux) to another ledge then up the final slab to an anchor station. *Equip - Grant Piper, Climbed - Tony Burnell, Nov 2018*

**Project - Tony Burnell**

**GZ - Ground Zero - 19, 7Br(Stp)** - ★ Start 3.0m L of the overhanging section at a slab, go up past an overlap & follow the last corner system at the end of the crag. *Grant Piper 2017*

## No1. Slab

*From 'GZ' traverse around the corner & go up to the base of No.1 Slab, climbs are described from R to L.*

**CC - Christmas Curry - 18, 8Br** - Start by climbing "TCL" to Br2, step R & then go straight up past 2 big ledges to the final slab & an anchor point. *Alexandria Natalia, 24 Dec 2018*

**TCL - The Central Line - 18, 8Br** - ★ Climbs straight up the centre of the buttress, cross 2 slabby walls to the base of a groove, up this to a large ledge. Continue straight up, steeply at first then the angle drops back & easier climbing leads to an anchor point. *Tony Burnell, 8th December 2018*

**SSA - Sleep Sliding Away - 17, 8Br** - Start approx 3.0mts L of "CL", follow the R trending, brown black slab till it starts to steepen up. Move up into another shall R trending groove & continue straight up to an abseil station. *Simon Courtois, 2018.*





## No.2 Slab

From 'GZ' walk along Ella Track for 10/15mts, climbs are described from R to L & the routes are dirty.

**RU- Round Up - 16, 8Br** - Start on the R side of the face, follow the line of staples curving up & around to the L till the wall gets steeper & you reach an anchor point. *Grant Piper 2017*

**BH - Black Humour - 19, 7Br** - The middle line. Head rightwards on the black wall, follow a series of shallow grooves, then veer R & go up to the anchor point. *Grant Piper 2017*

**SE - Scorched Earth - 18, 7Br** - At the very L side of the slabs, move up to pass between two small roofs. When the angle eases continue up to the anchor point. *Grant Piper 2017*





# Air Traffic Control Buttress

## Access

Sign of the Bell Bird Access

Parking GPS: -43.624345,172.628721

Distance: Distance: 600 mts

Walk Time: 8 minutes

From the car park at the Sign of the Bellbird walk south along the Crater Rim Walkway through the bush for about 5 minutes until you can see the crag above, keep on the track until you can scramble up via a short slab to the foot of the climbing area.

To access the top of the crag, drive along the Summit Road from The Sign of The Kiwi past the Sign of the Bellbird to the gated access road,



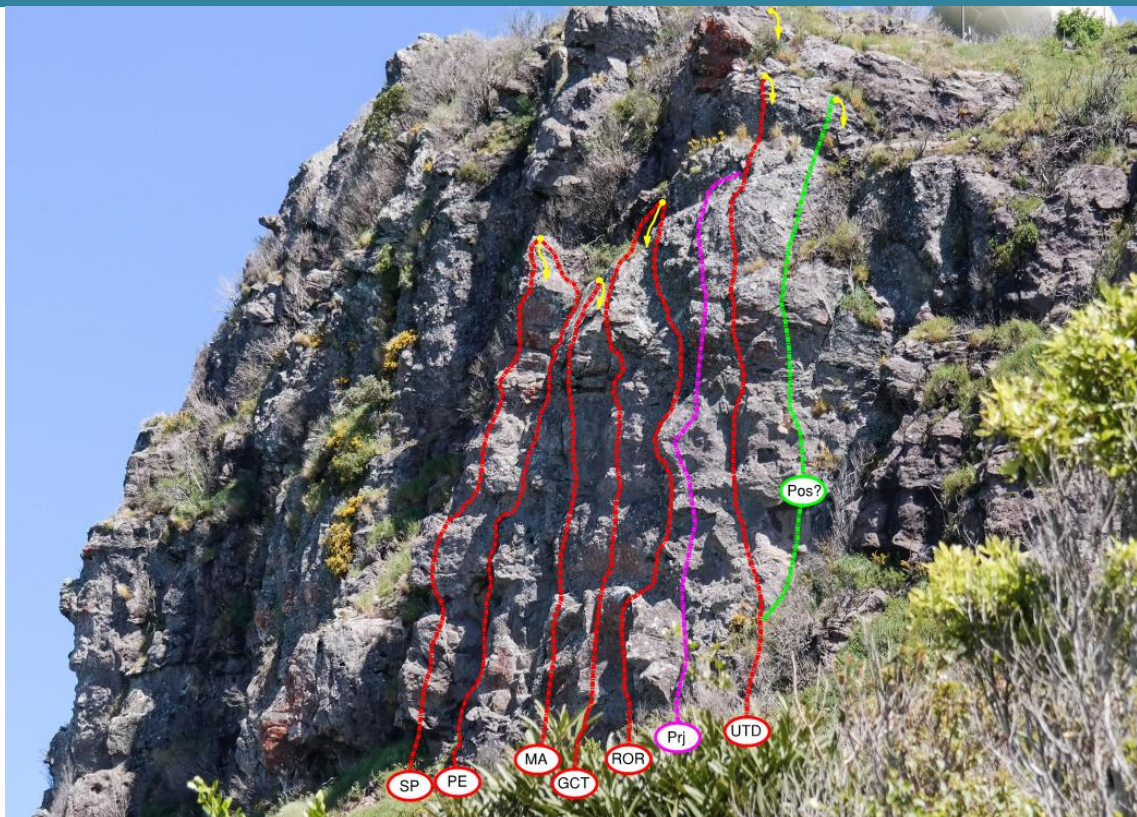
park at the pull in on the town side just after the T junction. Walk up the road, at the second hairpin bend contour round to the L (5 metres) & there is an abseil point on the rock just above head height.

## Crag Condition

There is very little seismic damage & little in the way of loose rock at the top.

Following the bush fires the crag is incredibly dusty/dirty & in need of a cleanup.

## Main Wall



## Route Descriptions

*Routes are described from Right to Left*

**UTD - Under the Dome - 22 9Br - ★** Climbs directly up the abseil route. Start in a bottomless groove with Br on L wall. Climb directly up into the scoop (crux) then up the pumpy leaning wall to exit up onto the top slab via a massive chicken head. Continue up past 2Br to the anchor station. *Tony Burnell, 09/11/2018*

**ROR - Radar O'Reilly - 19 8Br - ★** Start just L of the second short groove at the base of the crag, Br1 is an extended chain. Mantle shelf start gets you into a short corner, up this exit R then go back L and straight up. Easier climbing through the lichenous scoop to finish. Anchor station in the centre of the back wall. *Simon Courtois, 2008?*

**GCT - Ground Control To Major Tom - 21 9Br -** More or less the centre of the buttress. Steep face climbing to past 3Br's, move leftwards then up easier climbing. Br7 is out of view round to the R, clip this then move back L & up the crux groove to finish. There is a joint anchor shared with **ROR**. *Simon Courtois 11/ 2013*

**MA - Malaise Airways - 19 6Br -** Starts at the L side of the buttress, just R of the continuous groove taken by **PE**. Move up the face thru steep steps, at Br4 move right & go up into overhanging groove, straight up go over directly up onto the slab, past Br6 to an anchor at the top of the slab. *Simon Courtois. 23/11/2014*

**PE - Pilot Error - 16 6Br -** Climbs the groove at the L side of the buttress, follow the groove straight up past a no hands resting ledge, pull into the final groove R of **MA** then go back R to the anchor of ???. *Anton Green, 09/11/2018*

**SP - Sky Pilot - 19 6Br -** The route was prepared by Simon Courtois but stolen from under his nose. Starts at the very L side of the crag just beyond the start of **PE**. Move L climb directly up the gritstone like face & pockets, continue in similar style to the base of the red arête, follow this before moving R onto the face at the top & exiting onto the ledge above. *Aleksandria Natalia, 24 October 2018*

