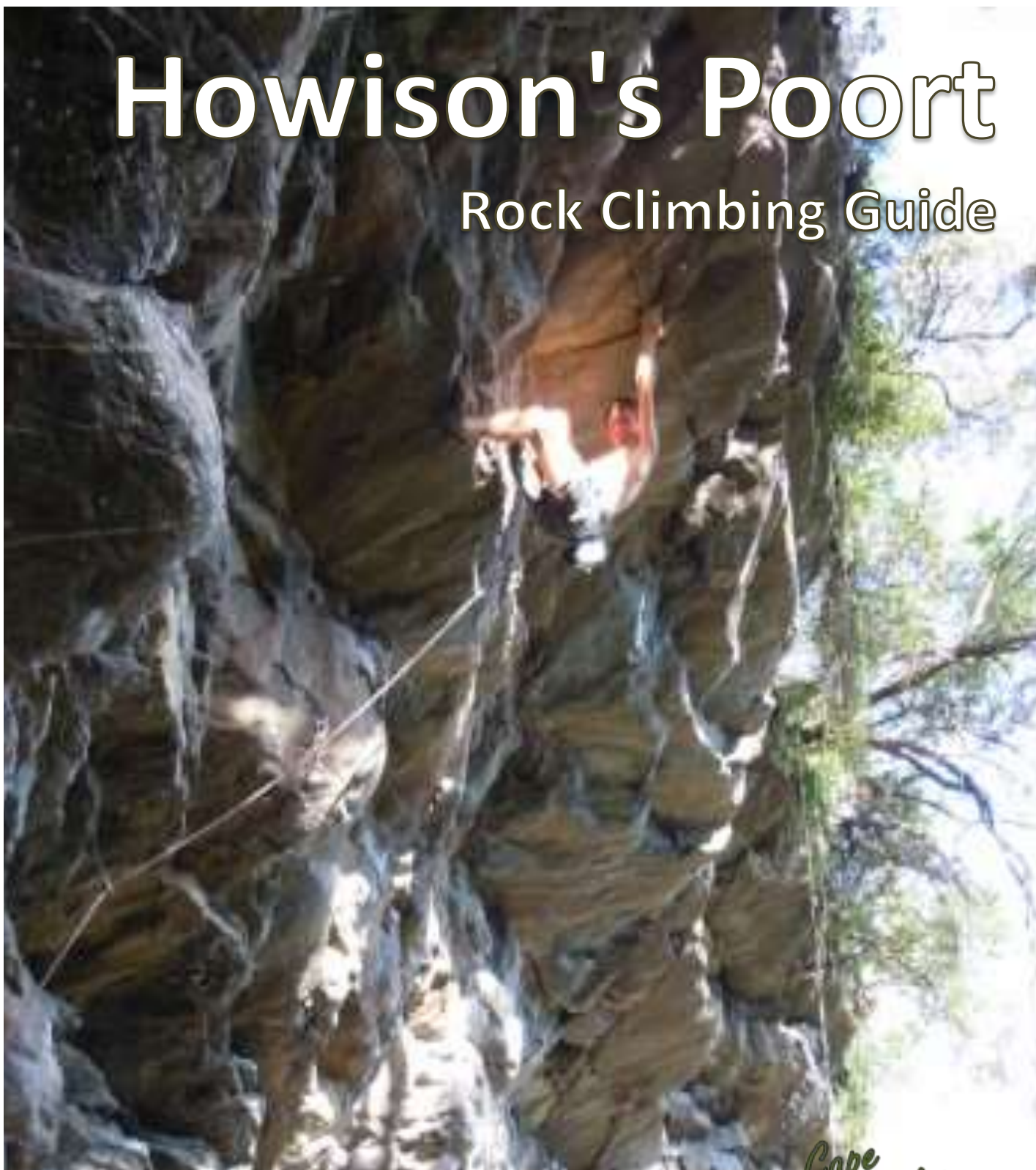


# Howison's Poort

Rock Climbing Guide





**LEGAL NOTE:** All climbing is very dangerous & always at your own risk. Nobody is forcing you to climb. You choose to climb, so choose to go home before the risks become too high. Remember even small injuries can take 6 weeks to heal. No responsibility for inaccurate or incomplete information will be accepted by the scribe or any other body. The landowners accept no liability at all. Climbers take full responsibility for themselves at all times. Fixed protection will become unreliable, loose rock is common, solid rock becomes loose & RD writers make up most of the information, with a beer, at the computer. This RD is only a guide & is no substitute for experience, training, common sense & a touch of caution. So you are on your own...take care!

## EASTERN CAPE CLIMBING VENUES

<p><b>Port Elizabeth</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Lady's Slipper</li> <li>2 Van Stadens</li> <li>3 PE urban crags &amp; boulders</li> <li>4 Sleepy Hollow</li> <li>5 Elands River</li> <li>6 Kirkwood</li> <li>7 Cape St Francis</li> </ol> <p><b>Groot Winterhoek</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Tygerhoek</li> <li>9 Naga's Kloof</li> <li>10 Eagle Gorge</li> <li>11 Momentum Gorge</li> <li>12 Pinnacle Gorge</li> <li>13 Cockscomb</li> <li>14 Grootbos &amp; Kleinbos</li> <li>15 Nivera</li> </ol> <p><b>Baviaans</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16 Grips</li> <li>17 Kudu Kaya</li> <li>18 Waterkloof</li> </ol> <p><b>Grahamstown</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25 Alicedale</li> <li>26 Howieson's Poort</li> <li>27 Moodies</li> <li>28 Boulderling</li> <li>29 Thornkloof</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 Coombs Gorge</li> </ol> <p><b>Amatolas</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31 Fort Fordyce</li> <li>32 Hogsback</li> <li>33 Stutterheim</li> </ol> <p><b>Langkloof</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 Nguniland</li> <li>20 Kouga Wilderness</li> <li>21 Uniondale Pass</li> </ol> <p><b>Garden Route</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22 Titzikama</li> <li>23 Groot Rivier</li> <li>24 Plett Crags</li> </ol> <p><b>East London</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34 NSA</li> <li>35 Windmill Hole</li> <li>36 Buffalo River</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37 EL urban crags &amp; boulders</li> <li>38 Yellowsands &amp; Inkwenkwezi</li> <li>39 Lalapanzi</li> <li>40 Morgan Bay</li> <li>41 Bola</li> <li>42 Mary &amp; Martha</li> <li>43 Hangklip</li> </ol> <p><b>Winterberg</b></p>	<p><b>Toorberg</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>44 Graff-Reinet</li> <li>45 Compassberg</li> </ol> <p><b>Transkei</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46 Hole in the Wall</li> <li>47 Hill of Execution</li> <li>48 Port St Johns</li> </ol>	<p><b>Swartberg</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>49 Towerkop</li> <li>50 Oudtshoorn</li> <li>51 Gamkaskloof Boulderling</li> </ol>
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**NOTE FROM THE SCRIBE:** It took consistent effort, time, work & organization to get this guide ready for your pleasure...for free! Thus please respect that all the information & photographs are strictly **Copy Righted**. You are more than welcome to print out, e-mail or link to a web page this guide in its unchanged format, with logos & all information intact.

Thanks to Kevan Watkins, Jeremy Colenso, Martin Renz & especially Keith James for giving route information & general historical snippets.

**DIRECTIONS:** Howieson's Poort is situated 8km out of Grahamstown on the N2 to Port Elizabeth. About a km down the hill from the Stony Crescent Hotel. At the Berg River bridge there is a parking area next to an old quarry, on the opposite side of the road to the hotel. Although the caves are very close to the car park, they do not look good at all... till you cross the stream.

**WALK IN:** About 40 seconds max.



**ACCESS:** No access restrictions.

**HISTORY:** As far as we know, this crag was discovered by Keith James...way back. Initially its potential was only recognized as a bouldering or training area. Later after much gardening some routes were bolted. The wasp problem was sorted by burning them out with a blue stove tapped to a stick. Re-bolting was sponsored by Derek Marshall.

**TIME & WEATHER:** Shaded most of the day. Can be very cold in winter. The caves seep badly a few days after heavy rain & can become quite sandy after seeping.

**GENERAL:** 42 bolted routes and some very poor trad. There is limited potential for new routes.

**ROCK TYPE:** Sandstone & quartzite mix.

**HAZARDS:** Area is reasonably safe, but take the usual precautions as the crags are on the national road. The caves tend to attract wanders, vagrants & Rhodes students... they are mostly harmless. There are some times turds in the smaller cave. Watch out for these, they are not fun to stand in.

**ENVIRONMENTAL:** There is lots of trash at Howieson's. Please do your little bit & take some of it home with you. Spend 5 minutes filling a bag to take home, you will influence your mates & they will join you. In time it will make every bit of difference. Believe.... Please do not add to the existing graffiti in either crag.

**ACCOMMODATION:** There are a hundred and one places to stay in Grahamstown. The best would be to stay at the old jail back packers. They have a sweet pub, full of hippies, student & tourists.

STAR RATING SYSTEM	
★	Good route at this crag.
★★	Good route in the area.
★★★	Classic route in this province.
No star	Reasonable to bollocks.
ABBREVIATIONS & SYMBOLS	
4	Bolted route
T	Trad route, natural gear
6B	Number of bolts
C	Chains or top anchors
Ⓝ	Chains or top anchors
P	Piton
RB	Removable bolt
	Afternoon Shade
	Morning Shade
	Shade all day
	Sun all day
	Can be climbed in wet weather

# SMALL CAVE

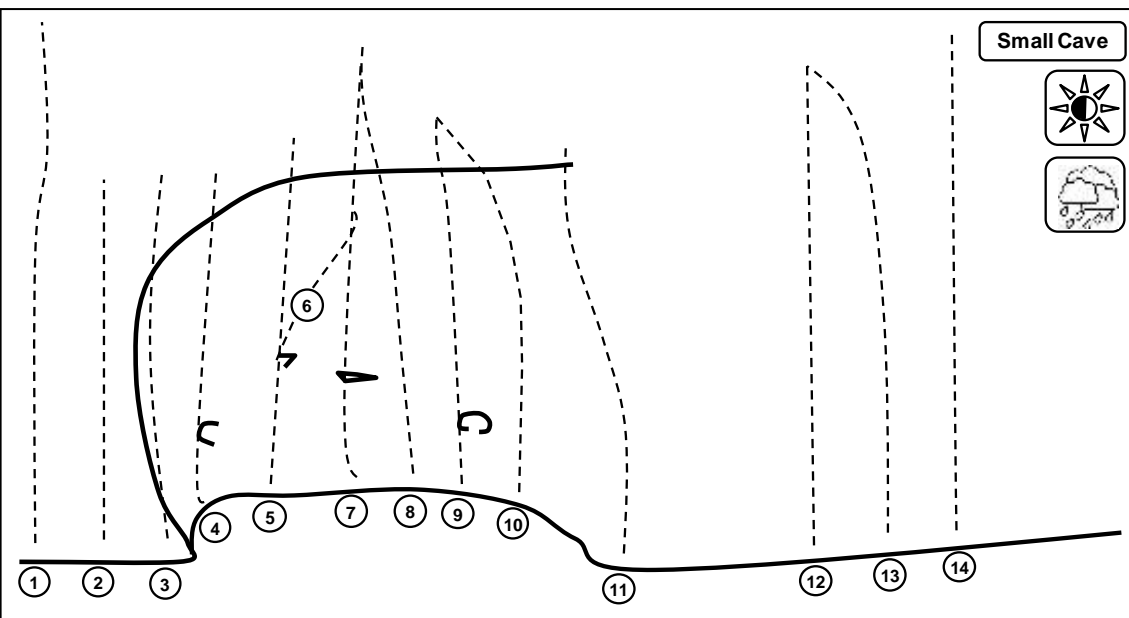


This is the sandy cave closest to the main road.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Crystals Crack – 17</b><br>(7B&C)   | Martin Rehm & Derek Marshall 15.01.2011               |
| <b>2. Hande Hoch Fritz – 18</b>   | Martin Rehm & Derek Marshall 16.01.2011 (4B&C)        |
| <b>3. Fringe Benefits – 21★</b><br>Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drays Marshall.   | Keith James May 1995 (4B&C)                           |
| <b>4. Sputnik – 26★★</b><br>Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drays Marshall.  | Jeremy Colenso & Shannon Law May 1995 (5B&C)          |
| <b>5. Body Parts – 29★★</b><br>Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drays Marshall.   | Jeremy Colenso & Shannon Law May 1995 (5B&C)          |
| <b>6. Mr Woggligog – 29</b><br>Link route.  | Martin Renz 2004 (6B&C)                               |
| <b>7. Madam Golliwog – 27★★</b><br>Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drays Marshall.   | Shannon Law & Jeremy Colenso May 1995 (7B&C)          |
| <b>8. But Here I Am – 28★</b>   | Juan-drays & Derek Marshall (7B&C)                    |
| <b>9. Another Roadside Attraction – 22★★</b><br>This was the first route to be bolted at Howissen's. Re-bolted & extended by Juan-drays Marshall. | Keith James April 1995 (5B&C)                         |
| <b>10. Ma se Auntie – 28★</b>   | Juan-drays & Derek Marshall 23.01.2011 (6B&C)         |
| <b>11. L.O.V.E. Machine – 26</b>  | Juan-drays & Derek Marshall 23.01.2011 (6B&C)         |
| <b>12. Ek Koekeloer Jou – 20</b>  | Stefan Kramer & Juan-drays Marshall 16.01.2011 (6B&C) |
| <b>13. Ek Sommer Moer Jou – 20</b>  | Stefan Kramer & Derek Marshall 16.01.2011 (6B&C)      |

## 14. Tattooed Madman – 20

Terence  
Trevaskis & Derek  
Marshall 16.01.2011  
(8B&C)

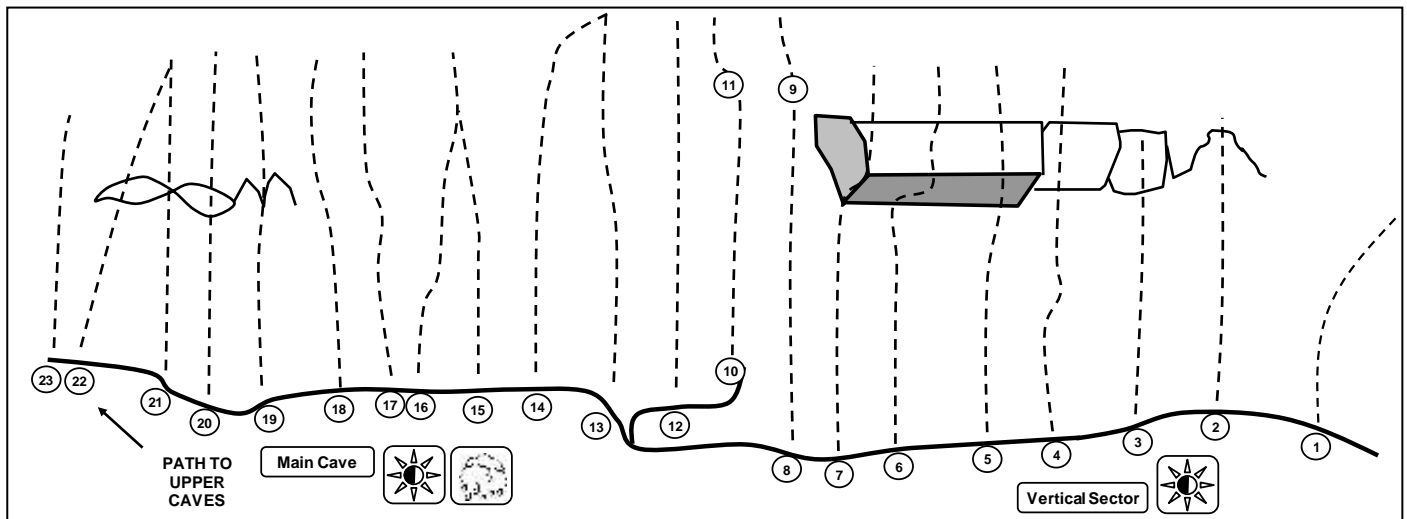


# MAIN CAVE



This is a few meters up stream of the *small cave*. The “vertical” lines in between the caves are included in the *Main Cave*.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1. Hallowed be Thy Name – 19</b> | Keith James 2004 (3B&C)                        |
| <b>2. Legion – 19</b>               | Keith James 2010 (4B&C)                        |
| <b>3. The Shallows – 20</b>         | Keith James 2004 (6B&C)                        |
| Extended by Derek Marshall.         |  |
| <b>4. Has Been – 21</b>             | Keith James November 2004 (7B&C)               |
| Extended by Derek Marshall.         |  |
| <b>5. Gymrat – 20 ★</b>             | Keith James 1995 (6B&C)                        |
| Extended by Derek Marshall.         |  |
| <b>6. Invisible Elephant – 21 ★</b> | Derek Marshall & Garvin Jacobs 2001 (7B&C)     |
| <b>7. Do The Dassie – 21 ★</b>      | Martin Rehm & Derek Marshall 15.01.2011 (7B&C) |
| <b>8. The Savant – 18 ★★</b>        | Marc Scáafer & Keith James early 90's (6B&C)   |
| <b>9. Savage – 21 ★★</b>            | Derek & Juan-dray Marshall 26.02.2011 (9B&C)   |
| Extension through the roof.         |  |
| <b>10. Slash – 18 ★★</b>            | Marc Scáafer & Keith James early 90's (5B&C)   |
| <b>11. Burn – 21 ★</b>              | Derek & Juan-dray Marshall 26.02.2011 (7B&C)   |



- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>12. Émigré – 22 ★★</b>  | Keith James 1998 (6B&C)     |
| Re-bolted & re-directed by Derek Marshall.   |                             |
| <b>13. Paglia's Pursuit – 21 ★★</b>  | Keith James (5B&C)          |
| Re-bolted & re-directed by Derek Marshall.   |                             |
| <b>14. Blasphemy – 22 ★★</b>   | Keith James May 1995 (6B&C) |
| This is the route with the hand size jug glued onto it. Re-bolted & extended by Derek Marshall.  |                             |
| <b>15. Heresy – 24 ★★</b>  | Keith James May 1995 (6B&C) |
| This route was opened with a glue-on hold at the crux at 23. This was later removed by Kevan Watkins, making <i>Heresy</i> a 24. Re-bolted & extended by Derek Marshall.   |                             |
| <b>16. Avatar – 22 ★★</b>  | Keith James May 1995 (6B&C) |
| This was the first bolted line in the <i>Main Cave</i> . Re-bolted by Juan-dray Marshall.  |                             |
| <b>17. Fat Boys Aerobic Workout – 29 ★★ ★</b>  | Jeremy Colenso 1995 (6B&C)  |
| Bolted by Keith & Jeremy in late 1995. Jeremy Colenso & Shannon Law gave it consensus grade of 29. Later Rhodes students upped the grade to 30. Notably an Italian, Alfredo D' Matteis (social researcher in PE townships, in 98/99) flashed it, |                             |

and then later soloed it. He also soloed all the other routes in the big cave. Paul Brouard on-sighted it, but left it at 30. Re-bolted & sent in 2011 by Juan-dray Marshall who was 15 at the time.



- 18. Skinny Toppies – 30 ★★** Juan-dray & Derek Marshall 19.02.2011 (9B&C)  
Bolted Derek Marshall
- 19. Texas Kak Huis – 25** Juan-Dray & Derek Marshall 23.01.2011 (5B&C)  
Bolted Derek Marshall.
- 20. Wake Up The King – 24** Juan-Dray & Derek Marshall 05.02.2011 (5B&C)
- 21. Amaqwaba – 22** Derek & Juan-Dray Marshall 05.02.2011 (4B&C)
- 22. Live Like an Animal – 21** Derek & Juan-Dray Marshall 05.02.2011 (4B&C)
- 23. Gaan Kak in Die Mielies – 20** Stefan Kramer & Juan-Dray Marshall 23.01.2011 (2B&C)

## UPPER CAVES

This is on a flat ledge about 25m above the stream. A reasonable path starts at the LH side of the *Main Cave*.

- 1. Valcross – 19** Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 22/02/2002 (4B&C)
- 2. Brighter Day – 22** Derek Marshall & Craig Bester 22/02/2002 (5B&C)
- 3. Strangers on the Street – 19** Derek Marshall & Allen Luck 23/02/2002 (5B&C)
- 4. Templar Renegade – 20** Derek Marshall & Allen Luck 23/02/2002 (6B&C)
- 5. Offal – 14** Allen Luck & Craig Bester 22/02/2002 (T)  
Up shelves to a large cave slot. Traverse L under roof & out.
- 6. No More – 14** Allen Luck & Craig Bester 22/02/2002 (T)  
Up groove, then R under roof & out to the R of roof.
- 7. Bring Your Jeans – 16** Craig Bester & Derek Marshall 22/02/2002 (5B&C)

