



# STONEWAL

## canyon v4a3II ★

### Location

Waitetuna Stream, Cape Palliser, Aorangi Forest Park.

### Character

Rough and steep off track access to a short but impressive greywacke slot canyon. Aquatic in nature, like some of the more technical south island canyons.

### Map

BR33 Ngawi



### Approach by 4WD Vehicle

From Ngawi, continue to Cape Palliser lighthouse. There is an unlocked gate, leading to legal public access across private land. Keep to the vehicle track, leave gates as you find them and do not bother stock or locals. This 3.5km journey is not suitable for 2WD vehicles. After some moderately rough 4WD travel, cross Waitetuna Stream, then follow a vehicle track up the TL of the stream to an old campsite.



### Approach on Foot

From the parking zone there are two options.

#### Shortest but hardest route

2hr

Climb the steep, loose and scrubby TL face to reach a prominent broad shoulder after 45mins. Sidle across the moderately angled face to another broad shoulder, occasionally negotiating small scree chutes, small bluffs and sections of thick scrub, which takes a further 60mins. From this second shoulder, descend north-west (towards a prominent waterfall/stream low in the valley) for 100m vertical through open Manuka. Sidle north to pick up a friendly scree to descend to the stream, 15mins from the second shoulder.

#### Longer but less steep route

2hr

Head through open Manuka to the obvious scree fan to the east. Climb the gully, keeping in the bottom of the gully and at any forks, take the left most gully. Stay in the bottom of the gullies to reach the saddle, 60mins from the car. Travel south then descend steeply at first to pick up a ridge. Bash down for 60mins through moderate scrub to reach the stream.

### Rock

Solid bedrock Greywacke in the canyon, but very loose on the approach. Helmets essential.

### Water

Moderate to high flows, of particular concern at R1.

### Catchment

12 km<sup>2</sup>

### Anchors

Double bolted anchors.

### Gear

50m rope minimum

### Route Description

The soaring valley walls close in to a 5-10m wide gorge as you boulder hop downstream. Put on your wetsuits just above the first drop, which can be slid, jumped, by-passed or repeated.

R1 goes straight through the focused flow, which can be quite powerful. A human deviation makes it easier to clip the bolted deviation anchor.

The final sequence has options. Either rappel or jump awkwardly into the first pothole, then continue rappelling to the bottom pool. Or, a leader can be belayed on exposed slabs to set up a hand line and rappel that completely avoids the water. At slightly higher flows, the pothole has a retentive hydraulic. Avoid or protect as needed.

Scramble down some boulders then exit on the TL.

## Time

Vehicle to Waitetuna Stream	2hr
Boulder hop to start of canyon	25min
Canyon descent	1hr
Return to vehicle	2min
<b>Total</b>	<b>3hr30min</b>

## Flash Flood Danger

Moderate. Inescapable narrows, large catchment, but a very short canyon.

## Escapes

None between R1 and the end.

## Notes

The described vehicle access route is on a legal 'paper road' across private land. The land to the east of Waitetuna stream is Aorangi Forest Park.

All the land to the west of Waitetuna stream is private property. Do not leave the marked route, camp, light fires, bring dogs or firearms across the private land.

