

Eglinton Valley, Fiordland

I am sharing information from my 'failed' attempt to [Frenchy Cascade Creek](#) to help the next group that tries it, who **should bring a drill and bolts!**

The approach was tough (steep with bush bashing at the start) and I accessed the canyon/creek bed at the first possible walking point; everything before that is a large canyon with a continuous wall that could only be descended by rappelling. I believe Alain entered the canyon/creek bed further up (according to the current info on KiwiCanyons: 'drop into canyon via slippery downclimbs and gravel') (fig. 01).



FIG. 01. Photos taken from #1 looking upstream. **Left:** scree slope, supposed access for Alain (black dotted line?). **Center:** view from the creek bed. **Right:** 'cave' in the creek bed, my access point (#1).

Alain did it in 1.5h. It took me twice as long and I entered earlier. It was tedious. It would be interesting to access #2 directly, where the canyon section begins, but for that, you should NOT follow my approach track and instead try to find a route closer to the creek bed. However... between my track and the Frenchy Cascade Ck bed, there is another creek with very steep walls (not a canyon). The walls of this creek could be scrambled down and up at the level of #2 from my track, and then... between this creek (unnamed, does not appear on the NZ Topo Map) and Frenchy Cascade Ck, approach the wall of Frenchy Cascade Ck and rappel down to the bed at the level of #2. What I have just described is pure exploration, risky, and the rappel (or rappels) to the Frenchy Cascade Ck bed could be done in two or three pitches with 50, 60, or 70m ropes using trees on the wall (fig. 02 right).

I believe this could be the only logical alternative if the descent is to have true sporting interest: entering directly into the section where the technical slot begins. Otherwise, as happened in Alain's attempt and mine, it is necessary to hike a considerable distance and gain significant elevation that must later be entirely retraced within the creek bed (walking and some downclimbing) until reaching the head of the first rappel.

This means there are two tasks to be done in this canyon: finding a new access and bolting it (at least R1, as far as I could see).

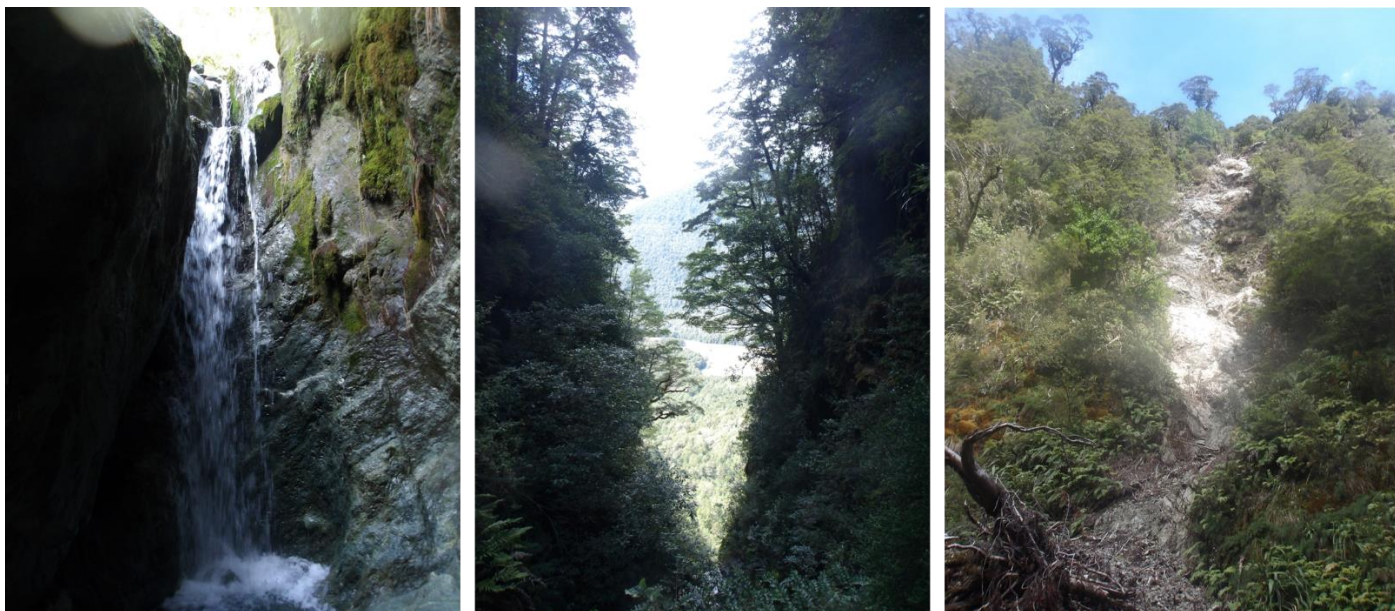


FIG. 02. *Left:* waterfall "DC (TR) or R 7m" (unbolted). *Center:* incredible views of the valley from inside the canyon (head of R1 10m). *Right:* landslide on the TR wall of Frenchy Cascade Ck, near #2. Take as a reference to consider rappelling into the creek bed.

POINT AND TRACK INFORMATION

Track ([Outdoor Active App link](#)). The part left is the canyon itself.

Point #1 – My access to the creek bed ('cave'): -44.885653°, 168.066854° ([Outdoor Active App link](#)) / 44°53'08"S 168°04'01"E ([NZ Topo Map link](#)) / 880 m asl.

Point #2 – Start of the rappel section: -44.887778 168.069444 ([Outdoor Active App link](#)) / 44°53'16"S 168°04'10"E ([NZ Topo Map link](#)) / 766 m asl.

Point #3 – End of the canyon (last rappel): -44.888486 168.070228 ([Outdoor Active App link](#)) / 44°53'18.5"S 168°04'12.8"E ([NZ Topo Map link](#)) / 659 m asl.

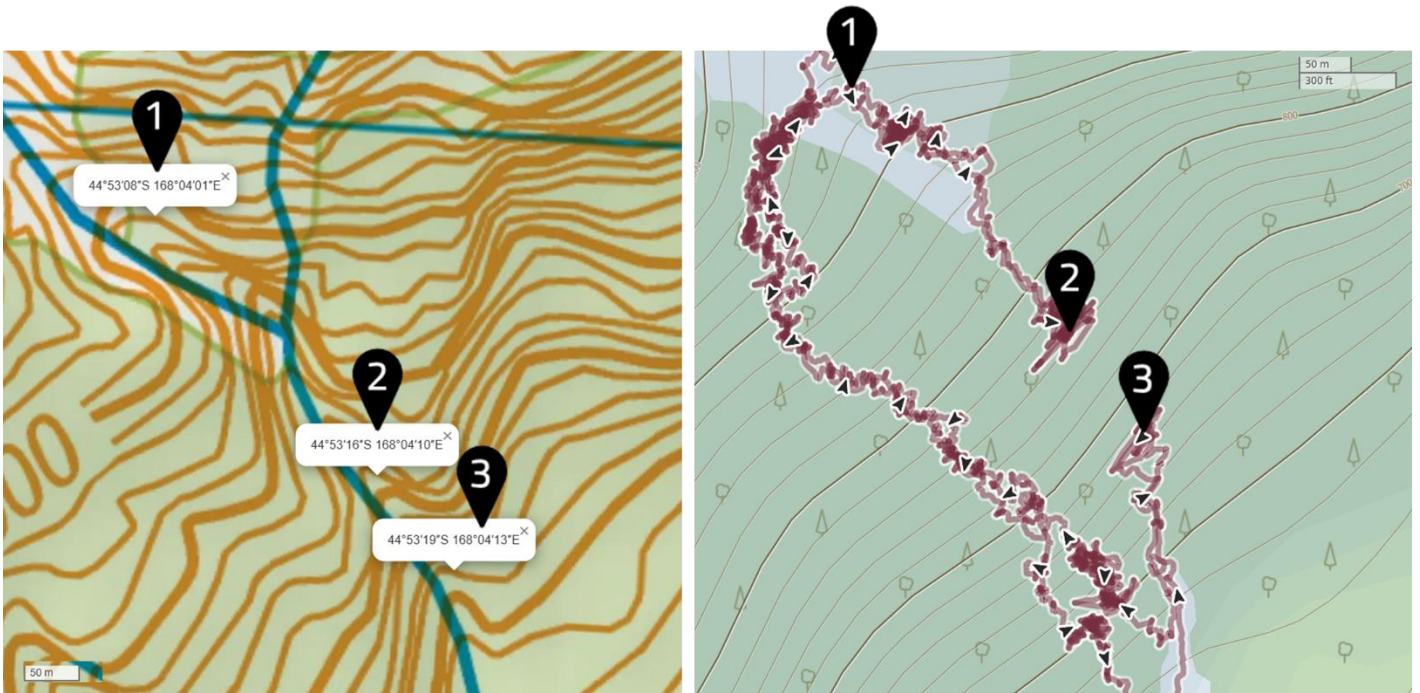
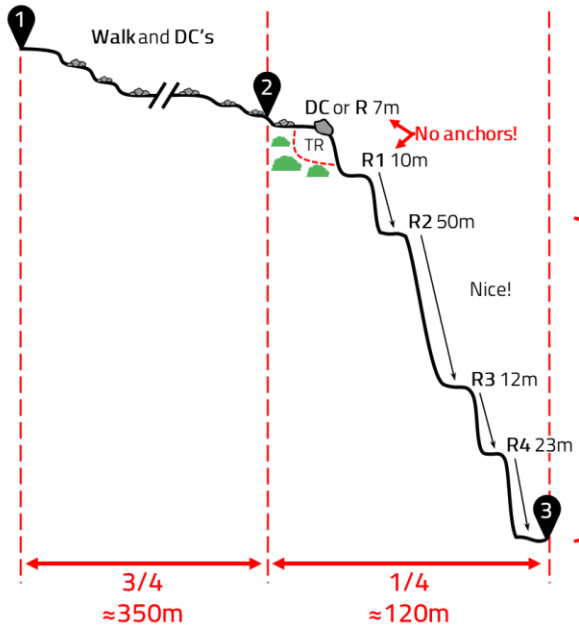


FIG. 03. Details of the points on NZ Topo Map (left) and Outdoor Active (right).

Frenchy Cascade Creek - V4A2III Eglington Valley, Fiordland



- 1 [-44.885653°, 168.066854°](#) (880 m asl.)
- 2 [-44.887778 168.069444](#) (766 m asl.)
- 3 [-44.888486 168.070228](#) (659 m asl.)

Track ([Outdoor Active App link](#))

**The part left is the canyon itself*

***Track-extracted coordinates, approx. ± 15m*

Explored by Alain Rohr.
 Topo by José J. Pintado J. based on Alain's info and Jose's visit (05/02/2026).

WARNING: It would be reckless to descend a canyon based solely on the data contained in this document and without prior experience. The author of this document is not responsible for any type of incident resulting from the interpretation of this data. For any questions or much-welcome suggestions regarding this topo, please write to jojapinjal@gmail.com