

# CASE STUDY

## PEACOCKS GALLOP

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## INTRODUCTION

In May–June 2016, Abseil Access was contracted by Protranz Earthmoving Ltd to undertake urgent rockfall protection works on the 70m-high cliffs above Peacocks Gallop in Sumner, Christchurch. Following the 2011 earthquakes—particularly the 13 June M6.3 event—the area had suffered significant cliff retreat and edge collapse, with the adjacent Main Road temporarily protected by shipping containers as part of the Sumner–Lyttelton Corridor safety measures.

## PROCESS

Over a six-week programme, rope access teams scaled the upper 15m of the cliff face to address imminent rockfall hazards threatening workers and machinery on the construction site below. Several hundred tonnes of unstable rock and debris were safely removed using a combination of airbags and precision hand-tool work.

## OUTCOME

The project was completed without incident despite the highly challenging conditions, successfully eliminating immediate rockfall risks and contributing to the wider Christchurch rebuild effort.

