

HOLDSWORTH JUMBO CIRCUIT

260 Series Map: Carterton S26

Topo50 Map: BP33 Featherston & BP34 Masterton

How to get to START: Starting point is Masterton. From the middle of town get on to SH2 heading SW, cross the river then right to Norfolk Road and over the railway. At Y-junction go left to Mount Holdsworth Road and go to the end and check at the Rangers House just before the locked gate to Holdsworth Lodge. The lodge has sleeping for over 20, gas cookers, electric lights, coal / wood burner and toilet block with flushing loos.

Rough description: A fairly hard 2 day circular tramp that can be shortened at several points with escape routes down off the high ridges. Day 1 can be up to the Powell Hut or extended to reach Jumbo Hut ascending Mount Holdsworth and Jumbo on the way. The descent via the Atiwhakatu Hut from Jumbo takes between 3 – 4 hours. Overall tramp distance is 23km with an altitude range increase of 1249 metres on Day 1 and 917 metres overall loss on Day 2. The route includes manicured tourist track to rather poorly poled routes on the narrow ridges between the Powell and Jumbo Huts.

Detail: From Holdsworth Lodge (**WP027** 304masl), where there are some very inquisitive Tom Tits, the manicured tourist track heads NW parallel to the river and within minutes a swing bridge is crossed then the track heads up hill as the Gentle Annie to arrive at the newly refurbished "lookout" (**WP31** 631masl) in about an hour. A few track junctions are then met but all are clearly labelled with the first target being the Mountain House shelter (**WP34** 735masl) which is gained in a bit over 2 hours.

After this the quality of the track decreases as the slopes and difficulty increases whilst the track turns into a route rather than a highway for tourists. Within 3:30 minutes the slope eases and then a rocky protuberance (**WP36** 1117masl) offers great views before there is another grunt upwards. The Powell Hut (**WP037** 1213masl), very new and well appointed, is reached within 4 hours and makes a good lunch stop or overnight option if needed. From here onwards there is no real path but a poled route – though the poles are few and far between and there is a lot of ridge walking. Again, even in inclement conditions, there are numerous well sign-posted junctions as aids to location; the main one being at around 6 hours with left for the Holdsworth Trig (**WP40** 1476masl) and right to continue on to Jumbo. There are good views from the narrow ridge now being walked but good weather is required to have the views – otherwise it is navigate from sign-post to sign-post marking the various tracks and tops. An important spot not to be missed is the sign (**WP43** 1398masl) indicating Angle Knob off left and Jumbo Hut down right – care is required around here as there are some very steep drop offs from the track. Jumbo Hut (**WP45** 1217masl) is reached in about 45 minutes from this sign.

New and Old Atiwhakatu Huts



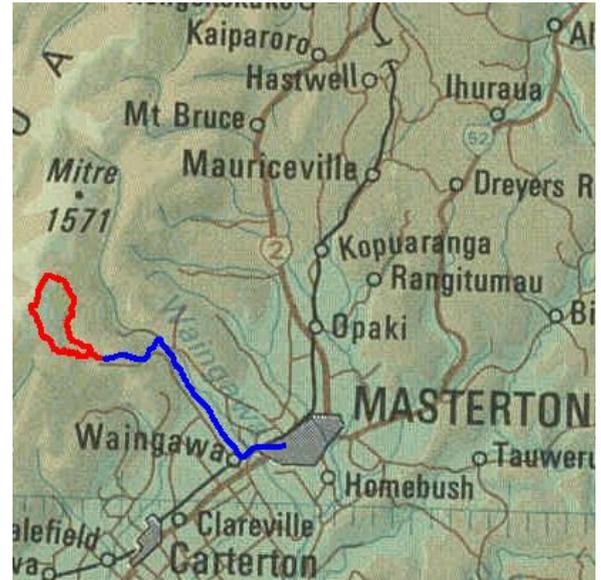
From Jumbo Hut the normal route out is now the Raingauge Spur Track though there is an older path (difficult to find) or one can go back over the tops and down the East Holdsworth Track. Five minutes below the hut the bush line is reached and for the next two hours it is a case of slowly descend the steep slopes keeping an eye out for the few orange track markers that exist and the many roots waiting to cause trip-ups. Meet the Atiwhakatu Track (**WP50** 471masl) and go right a few metres to where a new hut (**WP51** 468masl) was under construction in April 2009.

From here onwards the path is well marked and the quality of it improves from back-country track to tourist grade walking. There are a great number of side streams coming in from the right (SW) and some of these are badly scoured out indicating very high flow rates and water levels at times. Many bridges are crossed with one of them an all metal construction, including a tubular handrail (**WP54** 417masl) and a semi-stabilised landslip area is crossed (**WP55** 424masl). After that several tracks join from upslope on the right including the East Holdsworth (**WP56** 403masl), Mountain Shelter (**WP57** 383masl) then a long section of boardwalk winds its way through some wet forest and soon after the Loop Track is passed the main junction with the Gentle Annie Track is met (**WP28** 338masl) from where it is about 10 minutes back to Holdsworth Lodge.

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM and WGS 84

Access & Location

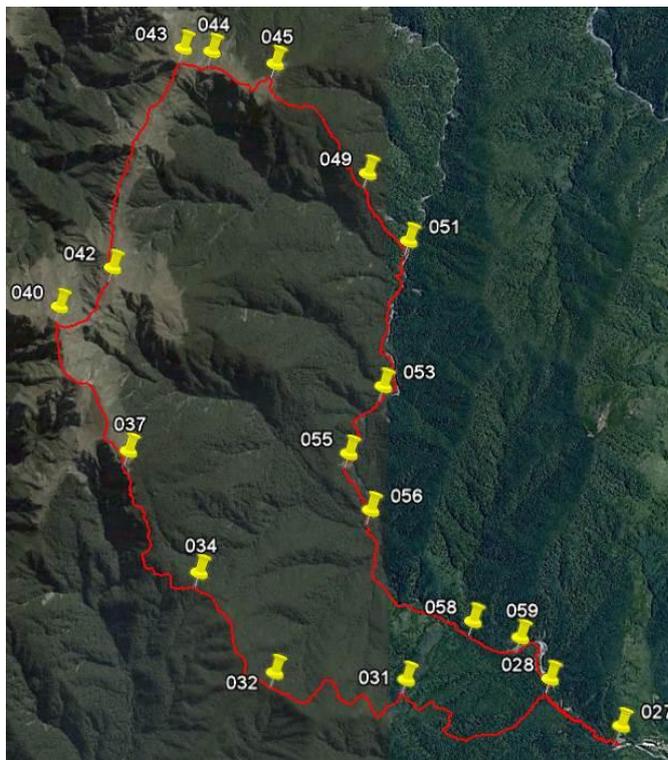
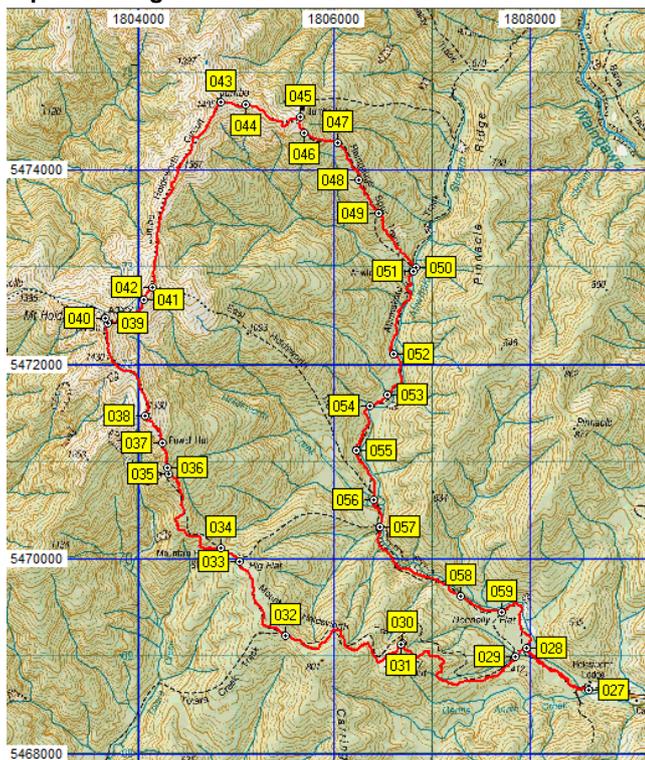


The location of the tramp can be seen above with the route walked shown as the RED line. The BLUE line is the access route to the start

Mount Holdsworth Trig



Map and Google of Holdsworth Jumbo Circuit

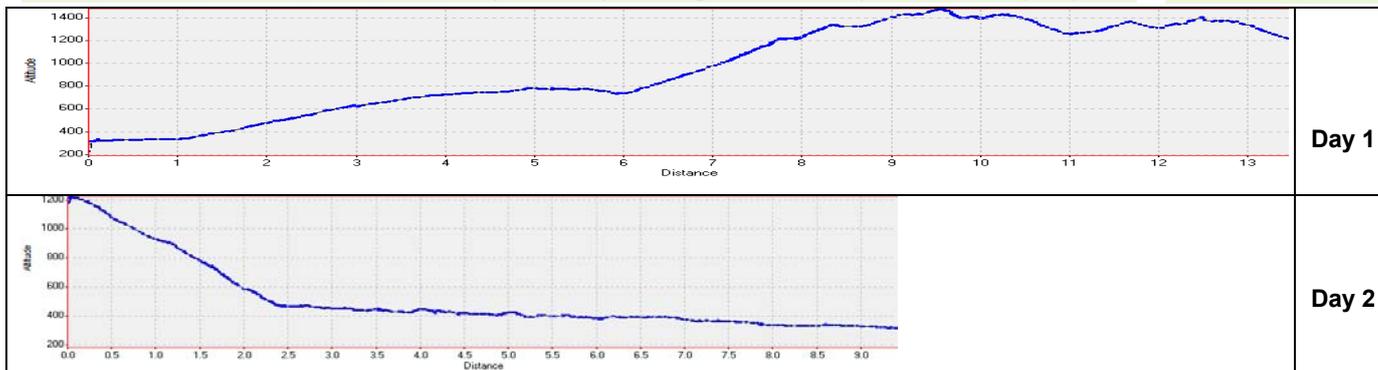


Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
027	2718633	6030571	304	Holdsworth Lodge. Head NW up tourist track to cross bridge and more super highway track
028	2718007	6031002	338	23min; stay on main track going left on Gentle Annie route
029	2717892	6030909	342	28min; pass T-junction with Loop Track off to the right. Go uphill on newish track with many steps.
030	2716731	6031051	614	1:05min; tree line after steeper section with steps near the crest and just before the "lookout"
031	2716716	6031032	631	Good views back down the valley from the newly constructed "lookout" platform below rocky outcrop
032	2715538	6031125	753	1:50min; Y-fork, go right. Long gently undulating contour path in wet beech forest then boardwalk
033	2715070	6031881	761	2:10min; Y-fork with right downhill to Atiwhakatu Valley and left for Mountain House
034	2714884	6032021	735	2:20min; Mountain House shelter with benches, water tank, toilet and info board. Track now steeper.
035	2714351	6032784	1088	3:30min; on ridge with easy slope after steep, rooty route not a path
036	2714328	6032851	1117	3:35min; open, rocky viewpoint then steeply upwards again
037	2714280	6033102	1213	3:50min; Powell Hut with great views, big deck, spacious, cooking gas, coal burner 20+ bunks
038	2714108	6033379	1333	5:30min; High Ridge (running to SW) notice board then boggy, tussock grassland
039	2713718	6034342	1463	6:10min; Y-fork with left for Holdsworth Trig and right for Jumbo
040	2713698	6034384	1476	Mount Holdsworth Trig then back to No39 and left down Jumbo track
041	2714088	6034575	1413	6:45min; narrow ridge, poorly poled route in rolling to steep area. Huge earthworm!
042	2714184	6034711	1426	6:50min; track junction with right for East Holdsworth Track (steep descending escape route)
043	2714873	6036615	1398	8 hours; T-junction with left for Angle Knob 4km to NW and right for Jumbo Hut 30-40 minutes
044	2715127	6036581	1374	8:15 crest of Jumbo, rough and exposed with some huge drop-offs from narrow ridge track
045	2715693	6036457	1217	8:45min; Jumbo Hut with 20 bunks, coal burner, sinks, roof-water tank and toilets. (OVERNIGHT)
046	2715728	6036296	1188	5min; steeply down from Jumbo Hut to hut sign at tree line. Rough track, broken steps in mossy beech
047	2716077	6036192	1045	20min; change east to south east on narrow rocky ridge with views
048	2716289	6035816	913	40min; exit wet beech for more open woodland then back into beech forest - steep rough track
049	2716497	6035474	766	1 hour; mature native forest on steep, rooty rough track
050	2716867	6034910	471	1:45min; bottom of steep descent at track junction on Atiwhakatu track, right for hut
051	2716848	6034871	468	Atiwhakatu hut - new hut being constructed April 2009. Wider benched track leads to swing bridge
052	2716649	6034019	441	2:05min; steep drop off on LHS from river erosion. Some board walk and shelf-like path, good forest
053	2716583	6033605	433	2:30min; large swing bridge in area with undulating to rolling slopes
054	2716405	6033481	417	2:35min; metal bridge then steeply up on eroded river bank edge. Many bridges and wild streams
055	2716257	6033025	424	2:55min; large, semi-stabilised land-slip zone with track up and over
056	2716438	6032525	403	3:05min; East Holdsworth track from the right then over all-metal swing bridge
057	2716503	6032241	383	3:15min; T-junction with right uphill for Mountain House shelter
058	2717330	6031525	364	3:30min; end of long snaking boardwalk in boggy area high above river
059	2717749	6031371	344	3:45min; minor junction to Loop Track off right 10 minutes before junction to main track (No 28)

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1808595	5468661
1807969	5469092
1807854	5468939
1806693	5469142
1806677	5469122
1805500	5469216
1805032	5469971
1804845	5470112
1804313	5470875
1804290	5470942
1804241	5471193
1804069	5471470
1803679	5472433
1803659	5472475
1804050	5472666
1804146	5472802
1804835	5474707
1805089	5474672
1805655	5474548
1805690	5474387
1806039	5474283
1806251	5473907
1806459	5473565
1806829	5473001
1806810	5472962
1806611	5472109
1806545	5471696
1806367	5471572
1806219	5471116
1806400	5470615
1806464	5470331
1807292	5469616
1807711	5469462



Notes:

- GPS Garmin GPSMap60 CSx on WGS84 and NZTM
- WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- masl = metres above sea level