

BLYTH HUT

260 Series Map: Ohakune, S20

Topo50 Map: BJ34 Mnt Ruapehu

How to get to START: Exit Taupo southwards on **SH1** to Turangi:

- From Turangi there is a choice of two routes but the aim is to get on to SH 47 heading for Whakapapa
- The map opposite shows going via **SH1** and turning right on to **SH46** passing Lake Rotoaira then left on to **SH47**
- Pass the turn off to Whakapapa at 95km in 1:10min
- Turn left on to **SH 4** at National Park in 1:30min and 104km
- Turn off **SH49** left for Ohakune at 129km in 1:45 min
- Enter Ohakune in 1:50 min, cross the bridge then turn left into Ayr Street at 137km (This is the second road on the left after entering town)
- At a mini-roundabout go left into Goldfinch Street then under the bridge
- Convenient public toilets on the left at 140km
- Continue up Ohakune Mountain Road through several gates and drop the trampers in the car park at the Ski Field buildings 158km and 2:20 min from Taupo

Distances and times are taken from the Police Station in Taupo and the route is shown as the thicker red line opposite

Rough Description:

A moderate A to B tramp starting at the top of the Ohakune Mountain Road at the car park area of the Turoa ski field **BH01** or **BH04** and going to the Blyth Hut. Two routes are shown since two routes have been tramped.

The WPs showing as blue in the map extract are the Northern Loop which was tramped in the summer time whilst the WPs showing in yellow follow a slightly lower, more southerly route but does merge (**BH09**) with the Northern Loop – the Southern Loop was done in wintertime.

From **WP BH18** there is a choice of coming out to the Ohakune Mountain Road on the new manicured path or the longer route down the Old Blyth Track to emerge on the road 3 – 4 kilometres closer to Ohakune. The north route takes about 3 – 4 hours whilst the south routes takes nearer 5 hours.

Approaching Blyth hut



You exit out on to the Ohakune Mountain Road (**BH22** 1155masl) at a small car park on the side of the road. Overall GPS data indicates a tramp of 8.85 kilometres during which the altitude variation is from 1711metres, near where the off-track starts, to 1147metres just before reaching the road at the end.

Detail – Southern Loop

This route starts in the lower car park (**BH04** 1994masl) just below the Ski Centre and there is a wicked descent down to the lowest part then a bit of a grunt up on to the first ridge followed by a steep descent to the next valley – go upstream till it is safe to cross this stream line (**BH05** 1606masl) which does have bluffs. Climb up to the next ridge staying right of the bluffs and in about 35 minutes cross the second stream line (**BH06** 1597masl). Within 45 minutes the crest of the second main ridge should be arrived at and look out for a small cairn (**BH07** 1611masl) on top of a rock since from it a poled route running down the ridge to the south can be seen.

The poled, rocky route is then quite easy to follow and the odd sheltered spot for rest breaks can be found (**BH08** 1496masl). A track can more or less be seen on the ground within 1:30 minutes as you come into a tussock area; this is where the Northern Loop joins (**BH09** 1476masl).

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Access



The lower car parks at Turoa



Detail: Northern Loop

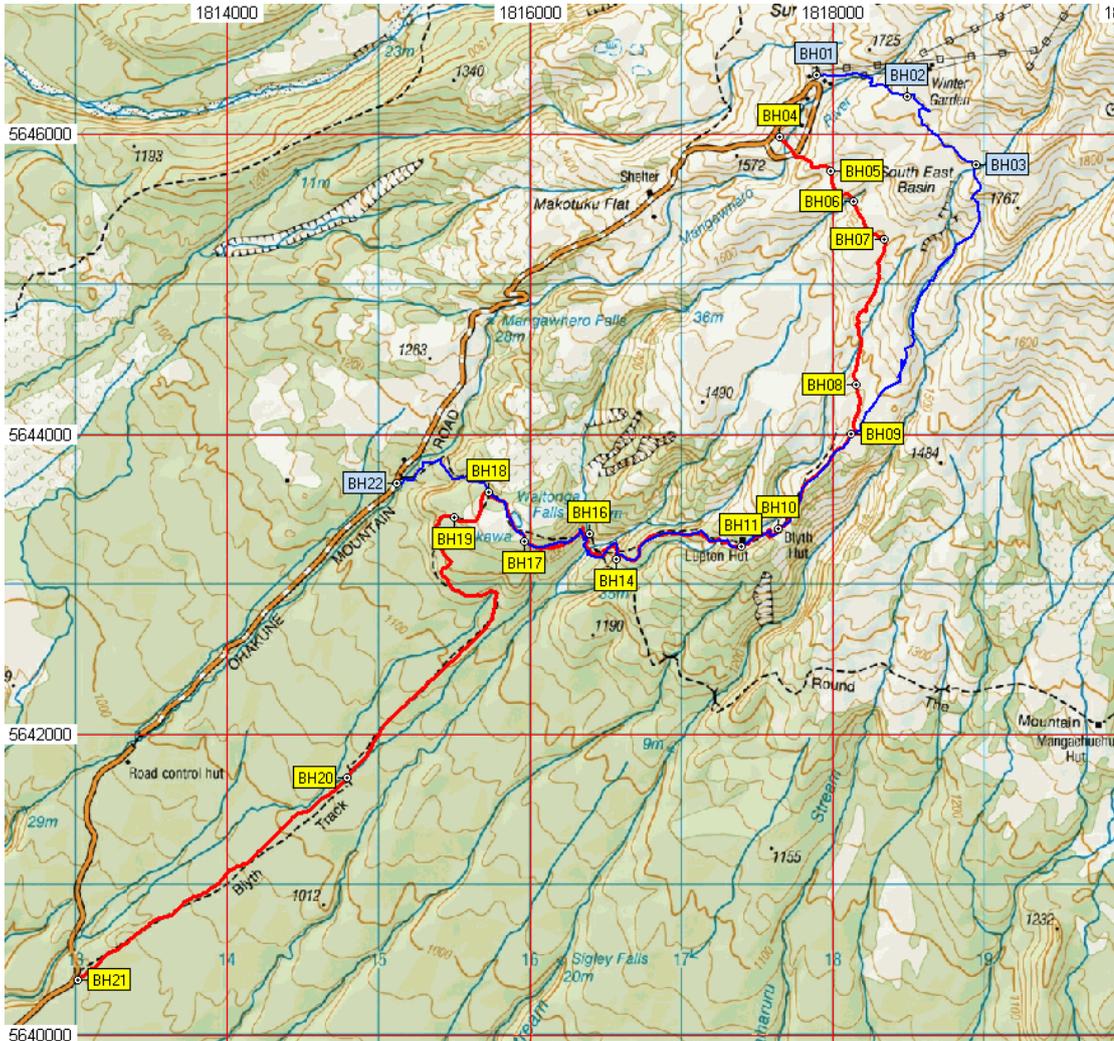
The tramp starts from the buildings in the upper car park (**BH01**) going Eastwards to SE on the road then goes off-track (**BH02** 1694masl) passing close to the South East Basin. There is a major stream line crossing (**BH03**) then a climb up on to the lower parts of Skyline Ridge. The route then follows down this ridge in a SW direction and eventually picks up the vestiges of a track less than one kilometre NE of the Blyth Hut – **BH09** 1476masl; this is where the two routes described join.

After the Blyth Hut, (**BH10** 1398masl) from where mobile phones have been known to connect, the track is better, well marked and the Wanganui High School Hut is passed 10 – 15 minutes after the Blyth.

There are two track junctions on the left as you exit:

- the first (**BH14** 1232masl) goes to Mangaehuehu Hut and is quite good and does have a lot of boardwalk
- the second (**BH18** 1260masl) is the old track for the Blyth Hut and this is not in too good condition in places

Map with GPS Data



Five or six minutes after this there is an eroded basin to cross, be careful as the approach edge can be slippery, and then the ridge descent continues, the top of the ridge being bare but the side slopes are well vegetated.

The vegetation gets higher then the Blyth Hut (BH10) appears after about 2 hours walking. This hut has 18 bunks / beds, a wood burning stove plus wood supply, external sink with roof water supply and a toilet.

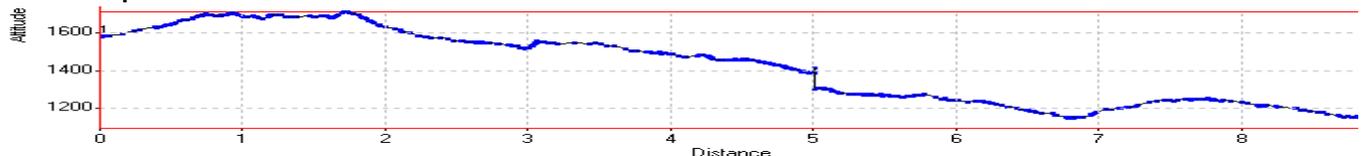
Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
BH01	2727870	6208509	1556	NORTH LOOP: Turoa Ski Area offices; off-load here and walk up road basically to the East
BH02	2728475	6208372	1694	NORTH LOOP: Road above Turoa Ski Centre, turn off track and go off-road SE
BH03	2728919	6207907	1700	NORTH LOOP: Major stream line NE of bluffs and leading up to Skyline Ridge
BH04	2727629	6208094	1594	9:21:50 Lower car park just off access road at Turoa 500m below buildings
BH05	2727966	6207869	1606	20min Walk: First valley crossing, go upstream till free of rocks & bluffs
BH06	2728118	6207666	1597	9:58:52 Second stream line, still rocky with minor bluffs
BH07	2728311	6207417	1611	45 min walk: On second major ridge and pick up mini stone cairn then poled route southwards
BH08	2728132	6206445	1496	1:15min walk: Tea stop in "sheltered" rocky position on poled route after third stream line
BH09	2728101	6206117	1476	1:30min walk: Plus minus obvious track and join northern GPS route in tussock area
BH10	2727620	6205484	1398	1:50min walk: Blyth Hut with 18 bunks, wood burner and external sink plus water supply
BH11	2727373	6205372	1352	2:05 min walk: Wanganui High School (Upton) Hut
BH12	2727227	6205422	1330	2:15 min walk: Iced waterfall in scenic valley
BH13	2726656	6205278	1253	2:25 min walk: Boardwalk after rooty track in birch woodland
BH14	2726546	6205291	1232	2:35 min walk: T-junction with path from Mangaehuehu on left (South) side (Good lunch spot)
BH15	2726373	6205343	1166	3:10 min walk: First of three river crossings, fair stepping stones
BH16	2726370	6205456	1177	3:15 min walk: Steep uphill grunt with photo stop below Waitonga Falls
BH17	2725946	6205405	1267	3:25 min walk: Out of the trees on boardwalk then 5 min later manicured, wide track
BH18	2725702	6205729	1260	3:30 min walk: T-junction with 20 min ahead for road and 1:30min to left on old Blyth Track
BH19	2725479	6205559	1243	3:40 min walk: Small, unmarked track at Y-junction; go left
BH20	2724770	6203831	1034	4:30 min walk: Moderately sized wooden bridge
BH21	2722995	6202484	923	5 hrs walk including lunch: Car park on Ohakune Mountain Road about 7km from Ohakune
BH22	2725101	6205792	1155	Carpark for new track to Blyth Hut about 11km from Ohakune

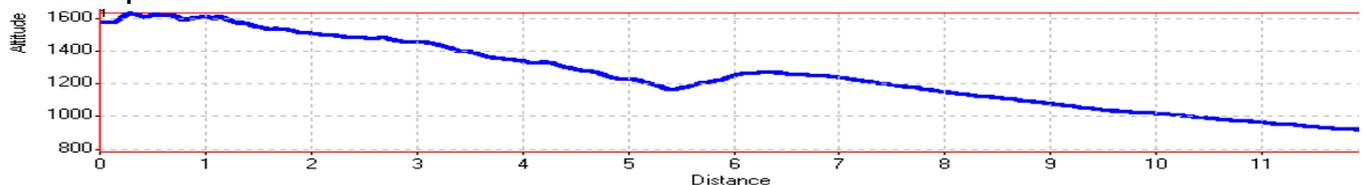
NZTM

Easting	Northing
1817880	5646128
1818485	5645991
1818929	5645525
1817639	5645712
1817976	5645487
1818128	5645284
1818321	5645036
1818143	5644063
1818112	5643735
1817632	5643101
1817385	5642989
1817239	5643039
1816668	5642895
1816557	5642908
1816384	5642959
1816381	5643072
1815957	5643021
1815712	5643345
1815489	5643175
1814782	5641446
1813007	5640097
1815111	5643408

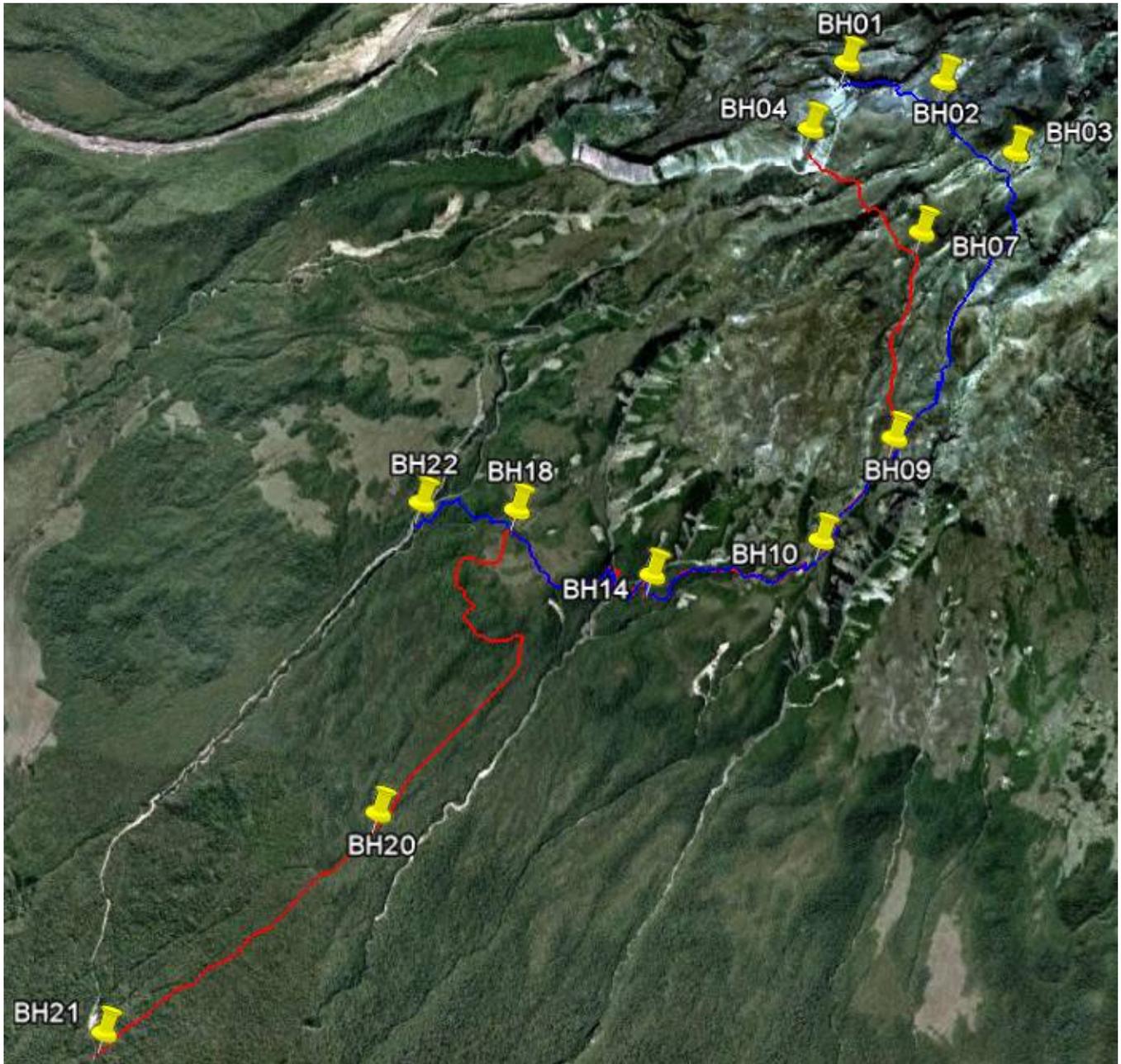
North Loop



South Loop



Google Image with southern loop GPS track



Five or six minutes after this there is an eroded basin to cross, be careful as the approach edge can be slippery, and then the ridge descent continues, the top of the ridge being bare but the side slopes are well vegetated.

The vegetation gets higher then the Blyth Hut (**BH10**) appears after about 2 hours walking. This hut has 18 bunks / beds, a wood burning stove plus wood supply, external sink with roof water supply and a toilet.

After the hut there is a steep zig-zag path plus some steps down into the valley and in 10–15 min the Upton Hut (**BH11**), Wanganui High School appears, this hut is open for emergency use.

From here on the tramp is in native, broadleaf woodland, mainly beech and the path can be root infested so be wary and do not slip or trip. There is now some new boardwalk (**BH13**) then a T-junction (**BH14** 1232masl) with the left branch going to the Mangaehuehu Hut. At just over 3 hours there is the first of 3 river crossings (**BH15** 1166masl) but there are plenty of stepping stones. There is now a bit of a grunt up the hill but halfway there is a superb view of the Waitonga Falls (**BH16** 1177masl) and 10 min later you come out of the woodland on to some boardwalk (**BH17**) in the open then there is a virtual motorway sized path.

At 3:30 minutes there is a T-junction (**BH18** 1260masl); go straight and there is an easy 20 minutes out to the Ohakune Mountain Road (**BH22**) and going left takes you down the older, not so well used, slightly tricky, slippery and muddy (in season) Old Blyth Track. There is one minor Y-fork on this – go right – and one notable bridge (**BH20** 1034masl); the road is reached in a bit under 5 hours (**BH21** 923masl) after covering 12km and descending 1123 metres.

Notes:

- **GPS** Garmin GPSMap 60CSx
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level