

UREWERA TRAMP to CASINO and WAIHUA HUTS

260 Series Map: V16 Tarawera & W16 Waimana

Map: BF39 Galatea

How to get to START: From the police station on the domain go straight on Heu Heu Street at the traffic lights, turn left up Rifle Range Road and then at the T-junction at the top, facing the golf course turn right and follow Broadlands Road.

- 30 min pass Broadlands School
- 35 min (38km) right into Strathmore Road
- 38 min (41km) turn left into Sangro Road
- 40 min (42.5km) T-junction, right to Rawhiti Road
- 50 min (52km) Left to Goudies Road, becomes gravel
- 1 hr (60km) Right on to SH38
- 1:10 min (78km) left in Murupara to Fort Galatea
- 1:20min one way bridge in swamp area then left to Galatea Road
- 1:30min Forest road on RHS 50 metres before bridge over the Mangamako River

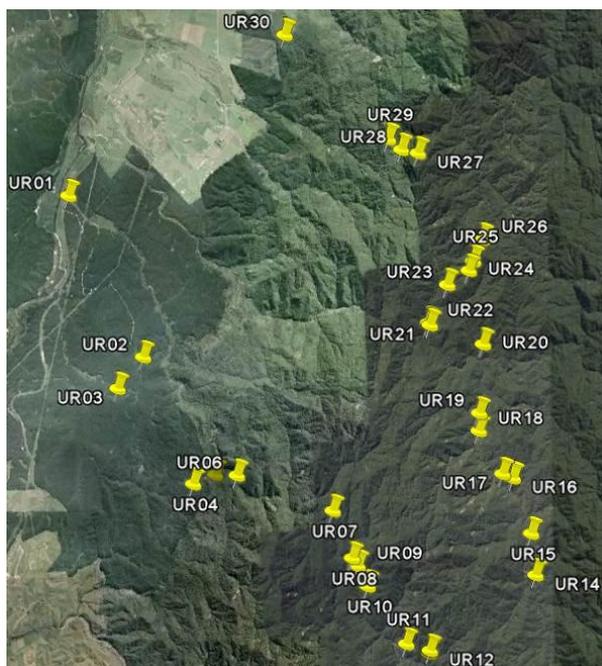
The above description can be seen opposite where the route followed is shown in bright red from Taupo northwestwards through sheet U17, eastwards through sheet V17 then northwestwards into sheet V16. The tramp route is shown by the yellow loop of waypoints.

However, in 2010 Goudies Road was closed to the public and now it is necessary to pick-up SH38 near Rainbow Mountain on SH5.

Rough description: A hard tramp off Galatea Road in Urewera back-country taking three days and two nights with overnights camping at or sleeping in two DOC huts or bivouacs – Casino and Waihua. The first day is extra long due to the forest access road being deeply rutted and not accessible to normal vehicles, giving an extra 2 – 3 hours tramping. A very descriptive quote for this tramp is “*you know when you are not on steep slopes because you are knee deep in the river, getting into the river or out of the river!*”

Good fitness and navigational skills are essential since the track is not really too well marked much of the time, there are many tricky sections with windfalls, river walking and crossing plus steep inclines.

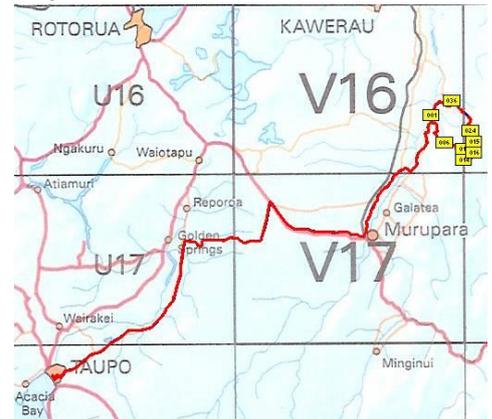
The river and forest scenery is first rate but, being in the bottom of deep valleys much of the time getting GPS readings and tracks is not easy and the readings obtained may not be too accurate. No track / GPS trace was able to be recorded on Day 2 though GPS waypoints were taken. All the waypoints can be seen below.



NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949 **Topo50**

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Map Sheet and Access Route



Distances & times from Taupo Police Station

Car Park after 2:30 minutes walking

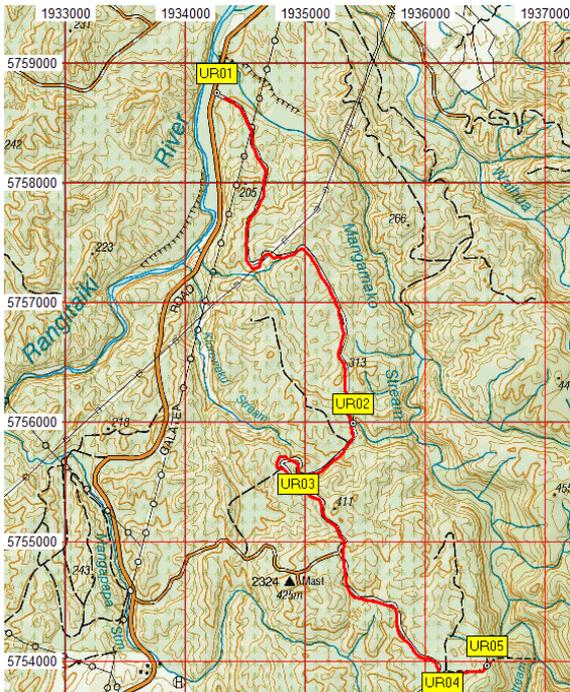


Detail:As described above the drive takes 90 minutes from Taupo with the tramp starting on the forest road which leaves (UR01) the asphalted Galatea Road 100m south of the Mangamako Stream bridge. In the past this forest road has been accessible to vehicles but it is now badly rutted. For future tramps it should be investigated if access can be gained via the forest road which can be seen some 4km further south and which passes the mapped “Fire Lookout”.

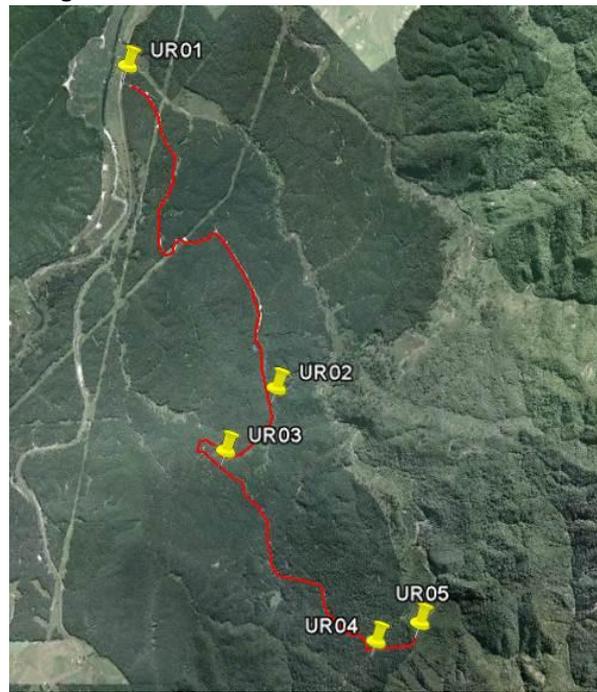
Walking is easy on the road which has rolling rather than undulating slopes and the GPS trace was good from UR01 as far as UR03, where forest cover was thicker and signals poor. Notes taken along with waypoints do not exactly fit the mapped track but by going straight ahead over the cross roads at UR03 then left at the Y-fork at UR04 the car park is reached in 2 hours to 2 hours 30 minutes. The forest is entirely coniferous at this stage and there are many “buddleia” bushes. The car park makes a good lunch spot before starting down the steep, zig-zagging path exiting from near the bend on entering the car park. The start of this path is marked with a large orange triangle and there are repeat markers on the track. The first 7 – 8 minutes is quite steeply sloping but within 30 minutes the valley bottom is reached and the slippery stream line is followed down-stream until a river is met where the route goes right upstream where there are nettles to be found and several river crossings are necessary.

After total time of about 4 hours a large bend in the river is reached (**UR07**); the direction is then S to SSE and a minor stream confluence is met at 4:30 min (**UR08**). Keep alert at this point for some 50 metres further on there are markers on the RHS indicating the start of the very steep path up to the Mangamako Hut. Markers are orange reflectives but much clearer are some polythene bags tied to the trees. This ascent is a bit brutal with full kit and takes about 10 - 15 minutes. The Mangamako Hut (**UR09**) is relatively new, sleeps 6 and has a safe water supply.

Day 1 Asphalt & Forest road



Google



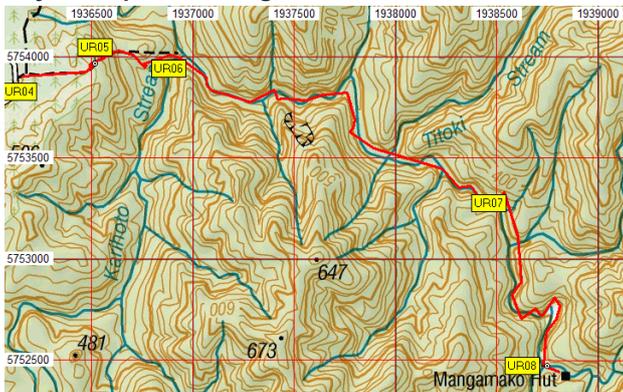
Waypoints – NZ Grid

UR01	2844338	6320222	Road end of forest track 50m before Mangamoko Bridge on Galatea Road
UR02	2845470	6317465	Day 1 Tea stop 1 hour up rolling, badly rutted forest road, many buddleia and birds
UR03	2845021	6316956	Day 1 Cross roads 2 hours up forest road, grassy branch to left; go straight
UR04	2846212	6315303	Day 1 Y-fork at 2:20 go left
UR05	2846587	6315443	Day 1 Car park on forest road after 2:30min, track with orange markers zig zags down for 10mins

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1934260	5758749
1935397	5755990
1934948	5755480
1936143	5753827
1936518	5753967

Day 1 Car park to Mangamako hut



Google



Waypoints – NZ Grid

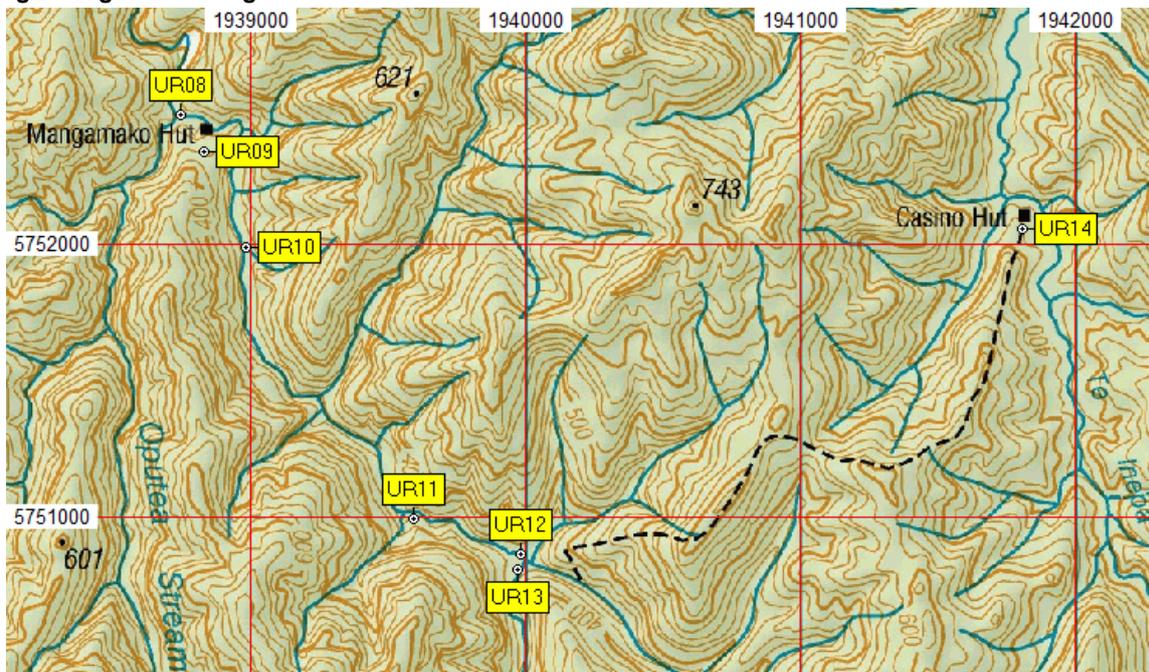
Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
UR05	2846613	6315642	396	Day 1 Car park on forest road after 2:30min, track with orange markers zig zags down for 10mins
UR06	2846976	6315614	284	Day 1 Valley at 3:10min, follow slippery stream, criss cross then meet river, go right upstream
UR07	2848552	6314952	297	Day 1 Big bend at 4:10 hours after several river crossings, nettles on dry land. Head S/SSE
UR08	2848839	6314145	327	Day 1 Pass minor stream confluence at 4:30 min, 50m further on RHS polybags plus orange path markers
UR09	2848925	6314011	377	Day 1 Mangamako Hut 15 mins up very steep slope from river

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1936518	5753967
1936881	5753939
1938460	5753278
1938748	5752471
1938835	5752337

From the Mangamako Hut there is a very testing descent down to the river and care is needed. The route stays in the river heading SE for over an hour (**UR10 and 11**) to arrive at a major confluence (**UR12**) with the Te Weramata Stream. At this point go right for 500 metres in the narrow river valley and look for the large orange triangular path marker on the left (**UR13**). There is now a 45 minute grunt up the steep spur onto a ridge. Once on the crest of the ridge follow the track to the left. Study of the map indicates there is a path mapped but from field observations this path does not meet the river where shown. On the map the path seems to leave the river further to the east and climb in a NW direction and then turn right at the top. The path leaves the river near **UR13** and climbs in an E or ESE direction and turns left at the top. There is then a very long, unending trudge along this undulating ridge for about 60 – 90 minutes to reach the Casino Bivouac (**UR14**) giving some 9 hours in total and about 6 hours from the car park at the end of the forest road.

Map & Google Image from Mangamako Hut to Casino Bivouac



Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
UR09	2848925	6314011	377	Day 1 Mangamako Hut 15 mins up very steep slope from river
UR10	2849077	6313664	324	Day 1 Back in stream at 5:30 min after very testing, steep, slippery descent from Mangamako Hut
UR11	2849682	6312668	341	Day 1 Still in river at series of bends after 6:25 mins
UR12	2850072	6312540	354	Day 1 Confluence with river in 6:40min, go left for 500m
UR13	2850060	6312483	360	Day 1 Go 500m up narrow river valley, left at large orange marker, steep up 45 min, left on ridge
UR14	2851891	6313729	401	Day 1 Casino Hut at end of endless, undulating ridge in 9:30 minutes

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1938835	5752337
1938988	5751990
1939594	5750993
1939985	5750865
1939973	5750809
1941804	5752059

The Casino is not quite as smart as the Mangamako, has three bunks, a fireplace, a broken/ defunct water supply tank, space for a few tents but still a very desirable spot at the end of a long day. Water can be obtained from the stream some 2 – 3 minutes downhill past the toilet. It is also possible to camp in the forest down near the river which supplies the water.

Casino Bivouac



Day 2 starts by descending from Casino down to the river and heading upstream (N) in, or occasionally parallel to, the Te Onepu Stream.

After about 30 minutes a possible alternative campsite (UR15) is passed through – this being one of the very few possible places to find enough flat space to erect a tent. A big slip area (UR16) with windfalls in and over the river is reached after about 1 hour whilst the river bed going gets a bit rocky below another slip face (UR17) fifteen minutes later. After about 2 hours walking there is a relatively large stream confluence on the LHS (UR18) whilst there are several other, some smaller, joining stream lines (UR19) whilst a larger confluence with the Waihua Stream is reached in 3:20 (UR20). There is a lot of river work in this area with some of the sections being relatively deep and tricky.

Landslip Area



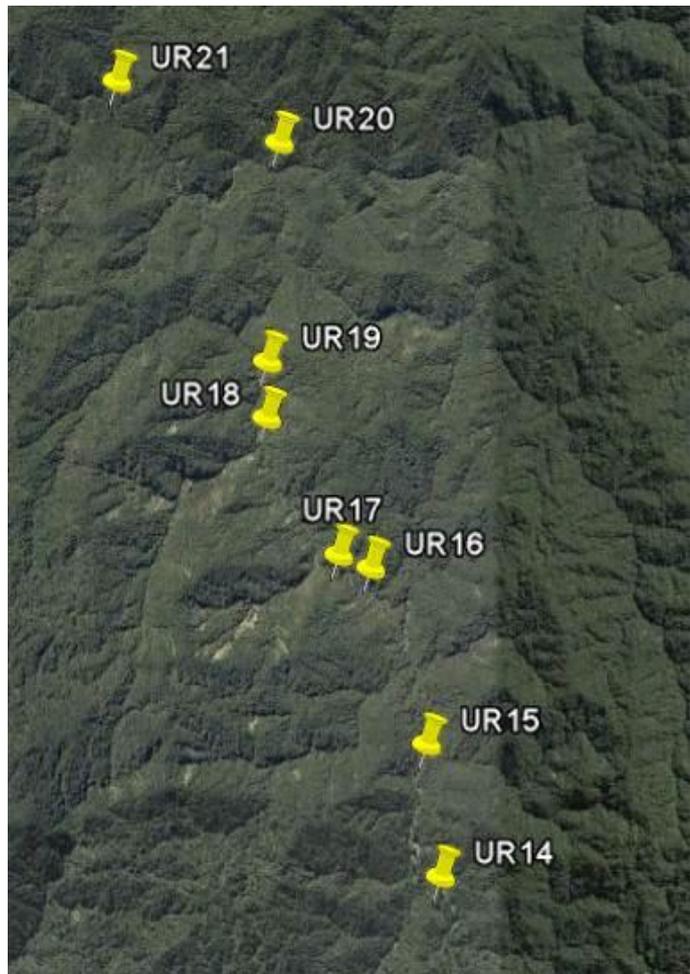
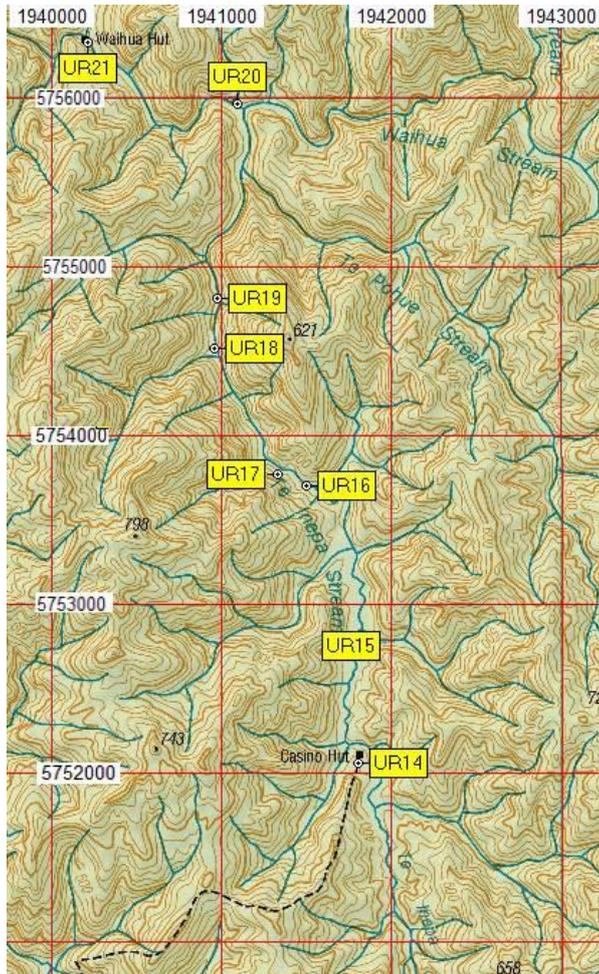
Deeper Water



Tricky Section



Casino to Waihua Hut



Waypoints – NZ Grid

UR14	2851865	6313530	Day 1 Casino Hut at end of endless, undulating ridge in 9:30 minutes
UR15	2851821	6314230	Day 2 Thirty minutes upriver, potential campsite
UR16	2851556	6315172	Day 2 One hour upriver, big landslip area with windfalls in river etc
UR17	2851385	6315249	Day 2 Below slip face with boulders in river at 1:15 min upriver
UR18	2851022	6315986	Day 2 Two hours walking with stream confluence on LHS
UR19	2851041	6316282	Day 2 River confluence at 3 hours
UR20	2851155	6317434	Day 2 Major river confluence at 3:20, follow large dry channel on LHS
UR21	2850283	6317795	Day 2 One hour from major confluence at 4:30min go left upslope for hut, clear signs

NZTM

Easting	Northing
1941804	5752059
1941759	5752759
1941492	5753702
1941321	5753778
1940957	5754517
1940976	5754813
1941088	5755966
1940215	5756326

Continuing on in the stream line for about another hour offers more of the same routine of in and out of the river then there are clear signs on the LHS (UR21) indicating the start of the path five minutes upwards to the Waihua Hut.

There is space for a few tents around the hut plus the helipad on the crest just above the hut also has room for a tent or two plus offering spectacular views of the hills and forest. The Waihua Hut is clean, modern with 4 or 5 bunks plus piped water.

Waihua Hut from Above



Day 3 starts by descending back down to the Waihua Stream, turn left and immediately heading off up the stream line on the right which is relatively narrow and tricky going in places. Quite soon a deep pool is arrived at, this is passable but not whilst carrying fully loaded rucksacks hence a diversion path on the RHS must be located which leads up and over the hill past the pool (**UR22**). The hours of getting into and out of the streams are now over and dryland walking commences – however it is uphill as a long ridge is ascended.

Stoat



The ridge line is reached in about 1 hour (**UR23**) after rather a steep section whilst there is some respite with a level section (**UR24**) after 1 hour 30 minutes, but there is more ascent immediately after this.

This ridge could be called “Dead-meat Ridge” as DOC activity is very high and many traps with stoat, rats and possum are encountered. The high point of the ridge is reached in 1:45 minutes in open woodland (**UR25**) and the target cross roads (**UR26**) reached in 2 hours from Waihua Hut.

Go left at this point on to the track for Waiohau unless the DOC workers hut at Papanui is being searched for or if the desire is to go on to the Waikokopu Bivouac.

Possum



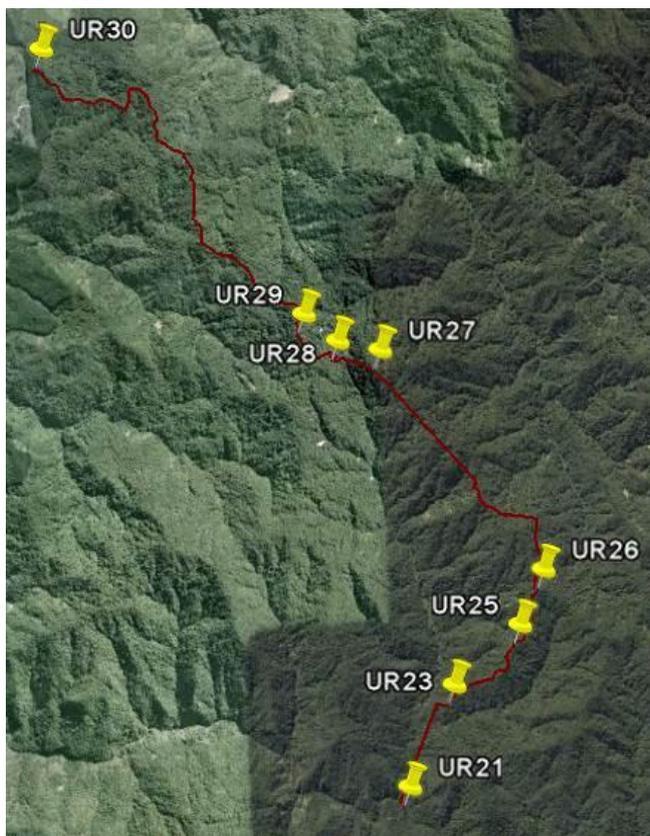
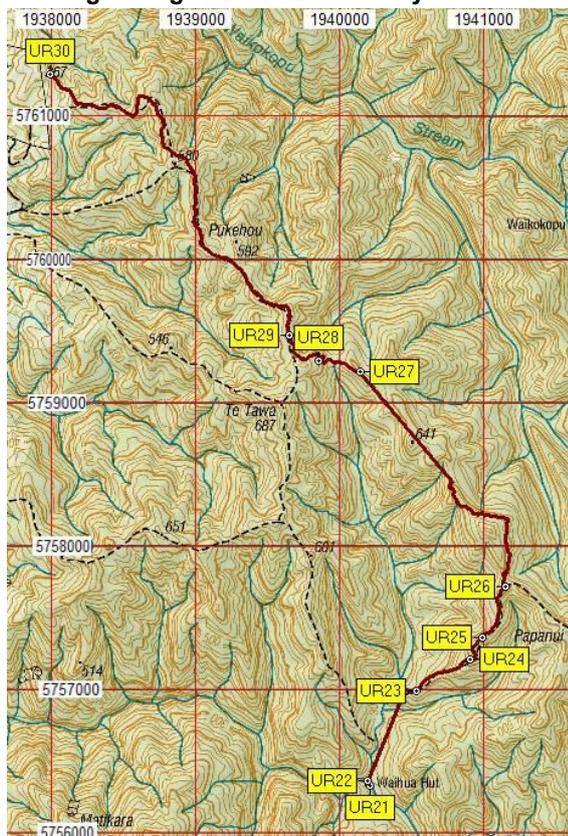
Papanui Signs Galore



After about 2 minutes the main track between Waiohau and Papanui is reached so go left on hitting this wider, more used track. From here about 4 hours of relatively easy walking is required to emerge from the native forest into the coniferous forest and a forest road.

There are choices whilst on this section as there are orange and yellow markers and it is suggested to use the yellow marked side paths as these avoid going the direct route over the tops. There are very few features on this section, apart from the before mentioned “dead-meat” and occasionally there are choices to be made as the track does split. The main split occurs at about 5 hours (after **UR29**) when the right branch with orange markers should be followed.

Map and Google Image with GPS data: Day 3 Waihua Hut to Forest Road



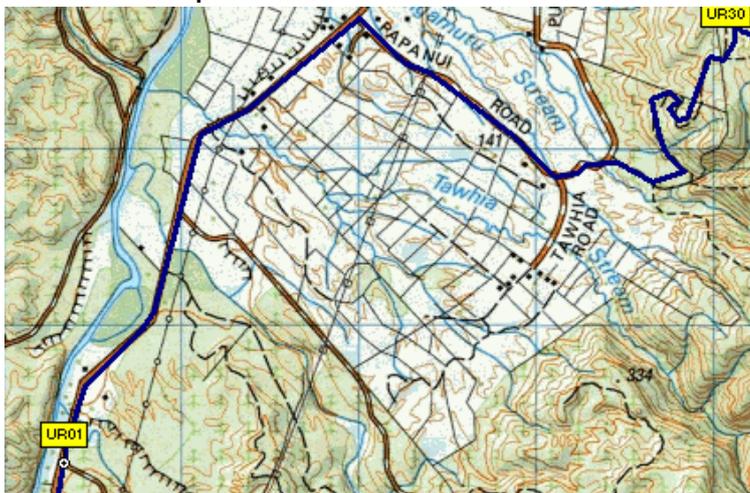
Waypoints – NZ Grid

UR21	2850210	6318247	257	Day 2 One hour from major confluence at 4:30min go left upslope for hut, clear signs
UR22	2850185	6318282	259	Day 3 Steep up / over past deep pool, magic forest but dark and slow going (Gap in trees at 45 min)
UR23	2850529	6318907	350	Day 3 On ridge at 1 hour after very steep ascent
UR24	2850899	6319130	502	Day 3 Level part on ridge with stoat in trap at 1:30 min but more steep ascent ahead
UR25	2850978	6319285	546	Day 3 High point of ridge at 1:45 min with open woodland cover
UR26	2851146	6319643	587	Day 3 Cross roads with signs at 2 hours; go left for Waiohau and meet main Papanui track in 2 mins
UR27	2850135	6321134	581	Day 3 Meet main Papanui track in 2min, use yellow "side" marked trail, still on ridge at 3:45min
UR28	2849859	6321205	600	Day 3 Four hours go R on side, still on undulating / rolling ridge
UR29	2849646	6321391	625	Day 3 Lunch at 4:15 min on slightly open, minor crest. Y-fork at 5:10 min, go right orange markers
UR30	2847934	6323211	340	Day 3 Car park in 6 hours in conifers after some serious descending

NZTM

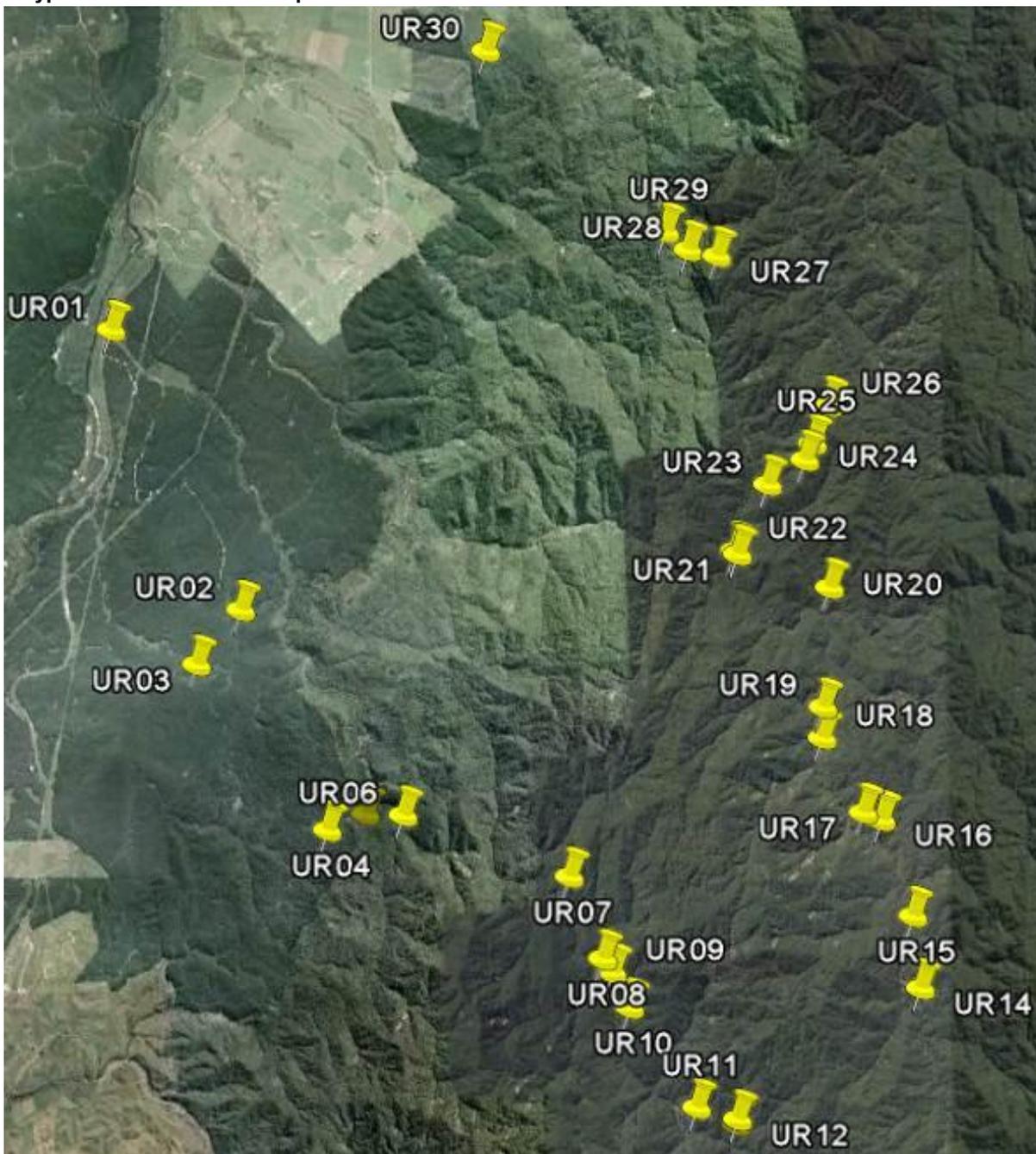
Easting	Northing
1940215	5756326
1940190	5756362
1940534	5756988
1940903	5757212
1940983	5757367
1941150	5757725
1940136	5759217
1939860	5759287
1939646	5759473
1937990	5761293

Forest Road car park access



The road link between the start point (UR01) and the end (UR30) can be traced on the map on the left and anyone with the 1:50,000 scale map could locate this car park. The road is generally quite good but vehicles with poor ground clearance can have minor problems and there are two close spaced boulders which have to be passed between – but the Taupo Tramping Club Ford Transit van managed.

Waypoints for the whole tramp



- Notes:
- **GPS** Garmin Summit on **Geodetic datum 1949** with slightly poor signal in places due to the forest cover.
 - **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
 - **masl** = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS unit and may not agree exactly with map spot heights)