

PUREORA via RED SHED

260 Series Map: Whakamaru, T17

Topo50 Map: BF34 Benneydale, BF35 Whakamaru & BG35 Tihoi

NZ Grid GPS: Geodetic Datum 1949

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START: Exit Taupo northwards on **SH1** and turn off at the top of Control Gates Hill left to Poihipi Road. There are two routes with one being shorter but on gravel and both take the same length of time.

The clean route is to follow Poihipi to the end, turn right on SH32 to Whakamaru then left on SH30 towards Mangakino then left again heading for Benneydale. At about one hour (70km) turn left at Barryville into Pureora Forest Park heading for the DOC Centre. All is well signposted.

The dusty route is on Poihipi past Wairakei Forest then left to **Whangamata Road** for **Kinloch**. Do not turn left at the next sign for Kinloch but go straight ahead to turn right at a T-junction on **SH32** (Western Bay Road) then left into **Kakaho Road** in 34 minutes and cross two bridges. The road becomes gravel (37 minutes) before passing signs for **Kakoha Recreation Area** then just stay on the main well surfaced gravel road. The car park for the **Link Track** is passed at 57 minutes and ten kilometres further on reach the **DoC Centre** area at Pureora

Times are taken from the Police Station in Taupo.

Tramp Location



Rough Description: The Timber Trail starts from near the DoC Centre in the Pureora Forest Park and heads south eastwards to meet up with the Toitoe Track ascending Mt Pureora. This tramp links the Timber Trail with the Toitoe Track to get up Pureora then descend via the Link Track to Link Road.

Tramp Briefing



Icons



Detail: The start of the trail (**WP01576masl**) is easy to find and updated information is willingly supplied by the staff in the DoC Information Centre, the trail open and is heavily used by walkers, runners and bikers and makes getting to the Toi Toi track easy. From the start it is level walking on a wide, meandering track in magnificent forest and is usually cool if not cold - but remember that this is actually a bike trail so be very wary at all times. After 25 minutes or so there is the first of several wide, wooden bridges to cross (**WP02589masl**). In less than an hour or 3km (**WP03602masl**) there is a junction sign-posted north leading to an old crawler tractor 5 min down the track - it is worthwhile looking at this 1928 bit of kit. The second wooden bridge lies at 3.7km (**WP04612masl**) and a minute later (**WP05616masl**) the road which heads NE to a quarry is crossed. Fifteen minutes later a bigger road (**WP06635masl**) is met where the trail goes left then after 50m goes off right, 10 min later bridges 3 and 4 are crossed.

Cabbage Tree Rd crossing



After 1:47min and 8km Cabbage Tree Road (**WP09684masl**) is crossed with a sign indicating the Maraeroa Cycle Way going right on Cabbage Tree Road - from here the slopes do increase a fraction as some altitude is gained. In about 2 hours as another road (**WP09722masl**) is crossed the Red Shed can be seen on the edge of the tree line upslope to the SE on the right. The trail now winds up the now-noticeable slope crossing another two bridges en-route. Within about two and a quarter hours (8.3km) the Red Shed (**WP11780masl**) is reached and this can make an excellent rest spot as there is shelter if the weather is inclement and there are very good views to the west.

Heading to the Red Shed



Active Forestry



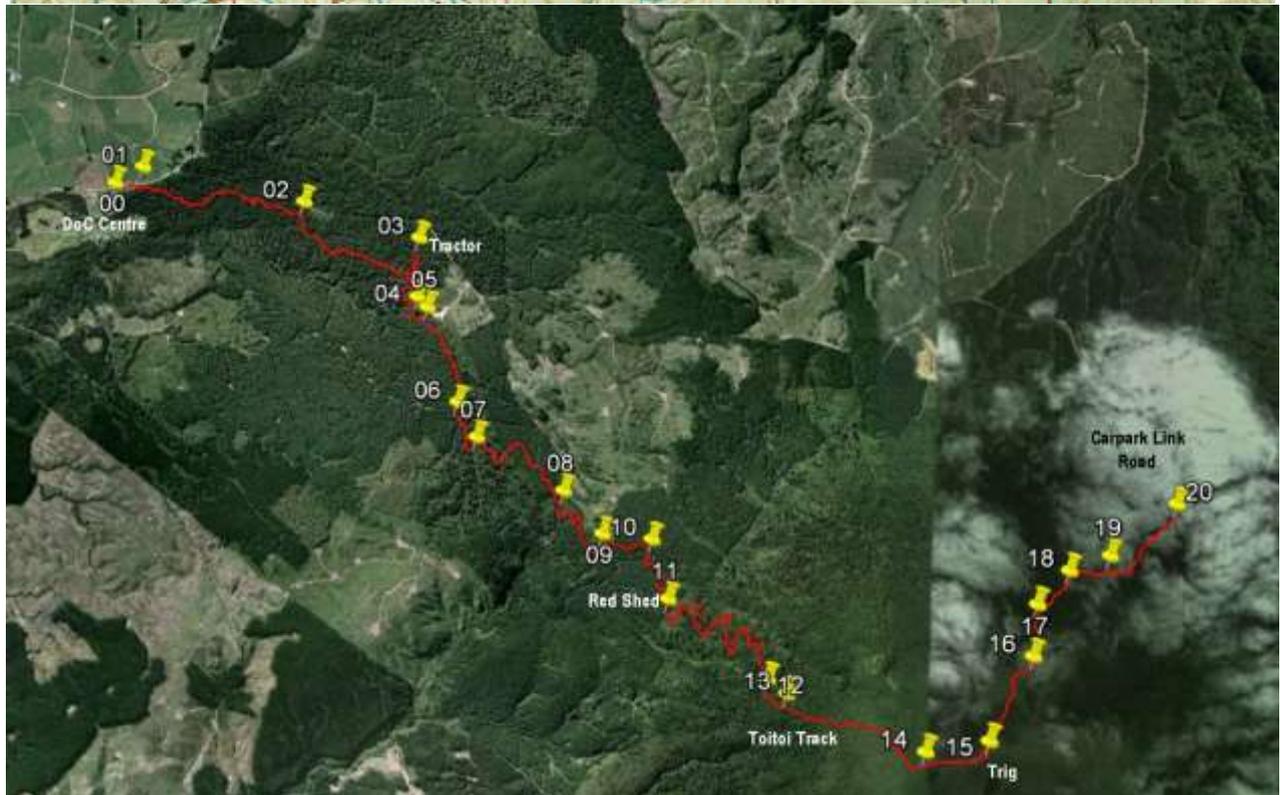
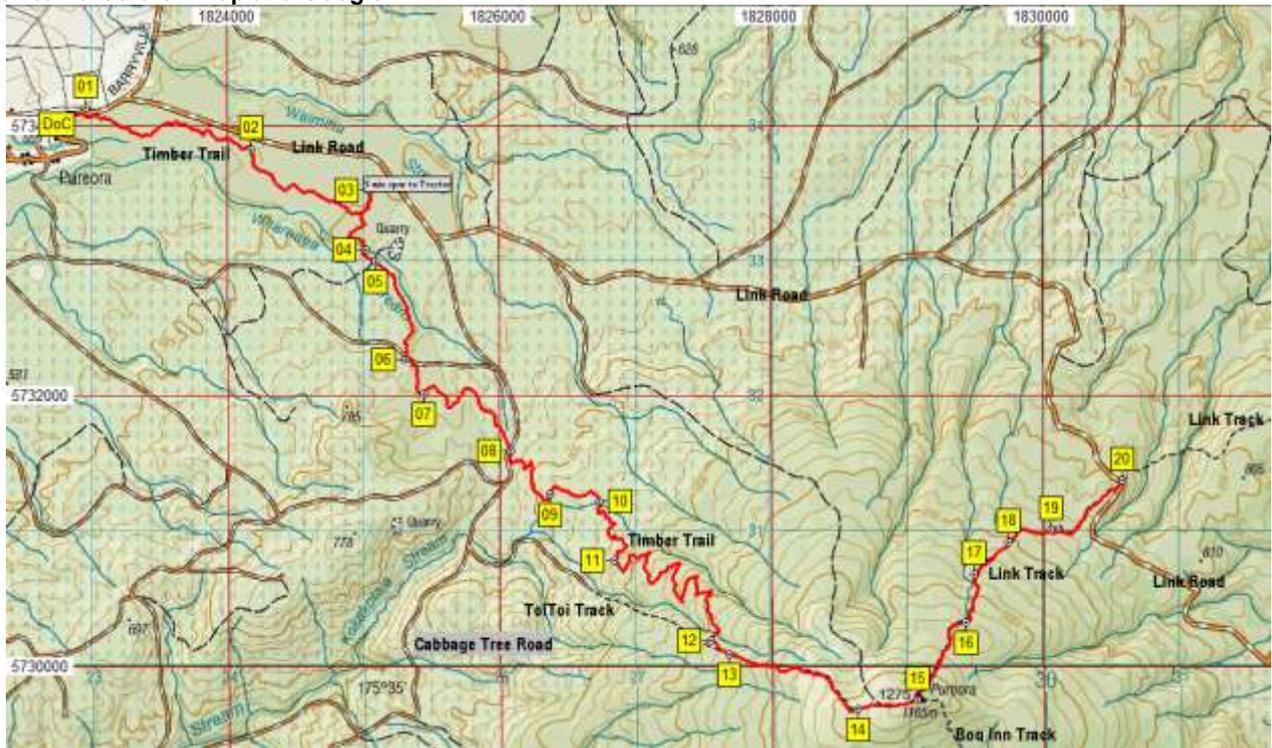
Info boards about



Timber Trail meets Toitoe



Track to Pureora on map and Google



Wide wooden bridges



The track continues up the left side of the Red Shed and it is back into the bush. Like in other places there are good information boards on this section as it wiggles its way uphill to the SE. There are a few minor slopes and a few slippery bits due to ground-water oozing out but overall it is very easy going – even on a bike. The wiggles more or less stop at **WP12924masl** then there is a left turn uphill on to the Toitoi Track as it crosses the Timber Trail (**WP13960masl**). There is now a distinct change as the track is virtually not maintained so some care has to be taken on this back-country track.

Red Shed



Waypoints NZ Grid

Na...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
00	2732905	6295838		Pureora DOC Centre
01	2733121	6295955	576	Start of Timber Trail 350m east of DOC Centre
02	2734336	6295647	589	25min 1.6km; wooden bridge
03	2735197	6295345	602	58min 3km; five minute spur to the north to old tractor picnic site
04	2735174	6294901	612	1:09min 3.7km; second wooden bridge then sharp bend in track
05	2735247	6294820	616	1:10min 3.8km; cross roads with old track - N is to quarry
06	2735457	6294099	635	1:25min 4.7km; go left on metalled road then off right back on Timber Trail
07	2735594	6293834	642	1:31min 5.1km; third wooden bridge with a fourth bridge five min later
08	2736233	6293415	684	1:47min 6.3km; cross Cabbage Tree Road which is marked as Maraeroa Cycle Way to right
09	2736515	6293088	722	1:59min 7.1km; road crossing with Red Shed visible on tree line to the right (*)
10	2736879	6293039	736	2:05min 7.5km; two wooden bridges close together on ascent up to Red Shed
11	2736987	6292598	780	2:16min 8.3km; Red Shed (shelter) with massive views to west. Into bush and uphill on cycleway
12	2737687	6292012	924	2:52min 10.6km; change from due S to SE after zigzagging uphill section above Red Shed
13	2737821	6291912	960	3:01min 10.8km; Junction of Timber Trail and Toitoti Track. Left uphill
14	2738773	6291501	1124	3:28min 11.9km; Toitoti track with board boardwalk & steps on almost level area
15	2739212	6291574	1182	3:36min 12.4km; trig point on Pureora
16	2739574	6292140	1005	4:23min 13.3km; section of older boardwalk on very fast descent
17	2739633	6292500	949	4:29min 13.7km; steps on boardwalk
18	2739889	6292731	901	4:35min 14.1km; good boardwalk in Beech forest on what used to be muddy area
19	2740200	6292827	855	4:41min 14.4km; fast boardwalk on more gentle slopes approaching Link Road
20	2740723	6293186	803	4:51min 15.1km; car park on Link Road

NZTM Grid

Easting	Northing
1822752	5734015
1822968	5734132
1824184	5733825
1825045	5733524
1825023	5733080
1825096	5732999
1825307	5732277
1825444	5732013
1826084	5731595
1826366	5731268
1826731	5731219
1826839	5730778
1827541	5730193
1827675	5730092
1828627	5729682
1829066	5729756
1829428	5730322
1829487	5730683
1829742	5730914
1830053	5731011
1830576	5731370

There is a sign advising that the Pureora Trig is only 50 minutes uphill, in fact it takes less than 40minutes. The delights of the old track are very apparent with sufficient mud and eroded parts to keep all very happy. Old boardwalk is hit after another 30minutes (**WP14**^{1124masl}), the bush begins to thin and soon the actual trig (**WP15**^{1182masl}) can be seen on the horizon and was arrived at after a total time of 3:36min (12.4km). There is a communications mast on the summit powered by PV panels and clear signs indicating the way down. There is also a track heading to the E which then turns to the SE and this goes to Bog Inn. The Link Track is used to exit the area and this goes off to the NE. The expected testing descent down the Link Track to meet Link Road no longer exists and the extensive steps and boardwalk make it a very rapid exit which can be completed within 45 minutes to arrive at the car park (**WP20**^{803masl}) in just on 5 hours and after 15km distance.

The tractor



Lunch at the top



Established bike track



Newer section



Notes:

- **GPS:** (Garmin GPSMap 60CSx)
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS units)

From : 30-Oct-13 08:40:43
To : 30-Oct-13 13:31:40

Time taken : 4:50:56
Total Distance : 15.089 Km
GPS Distance : 16.22 km
Minimum Speed : 0.014 KPH
Maximum Speed : 8.939 KPH
Average Speed : 3.112 KPH

Minimum Altitude : 555 Meters
Maximum Altitude : 1166 Meters
Overall Ascent : 676 metres