

## TAUHARA FOREST

Topo50 Map: BG36 Taupo & BG37 Iwitihi

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

**How to get to START:** From the police station on the domain go out on Broadlands Road from the top of Spa Road heading NE for the Taupo Motor Sport Park. At the eastern end of the Motor Sport Park turn right ESE to Off Road Highway. Follow this road, which becomes gravel and carries logging trucks, for 5.8km. At this point a locked gate (**WP0**) on a road heading south gives access to the parking area (**WP01**).

**Rough description:** This tramp is on private land and before proceeding it is necessary to obtain permission and access from Wairakei Estate who have their offices on Broadlands Road.

A moderate tramp which is on good forest tracks and roads which are used for the Tauhara off-road half marathon. With the distance and ascending involved (15.5km and almost 500metres) the legs will know they have been out for a walk. There is some very pleasant forest to walk through, different views of Mt Tauhara and good vistas of the surrounding countryside from the Fire Lookout. Five to six hours should be allowed and even though there are few names on the roads the route is pretty easy to follow but there is a bit of bush-bashing near the end.

**Detail:** The vehicle can be left at the junction of two forest roads as indicated (**WP01**<sub>416masl</sub>) or at the junction before – this depends on whether one wants to walk an extra 500m at the end of the tramp.

From **WP01** walk back the access road to the SSE and turn right on the slightly larger gravel road, Highway One, which heads to the SW then bends southwards before turning to the SE. Keep the eyes open looking for the white plastic kilometric marker number 7 where the route turns right on to a track heading SSW. This track executes a long slow ascent and slowly swings round to the south east. After an hour's walking the route almost turns back on itself (**WP03**<sub>587masl</sub>) and now heads to the NW through rolling to hilly terrain. There are not too many features around here to catch the attention but there is a bluff to walk below whilst heading north (**WP04**<sub>548masl</sub>). The track now wiggles about a bit as there are a few gullied stream lines to work around (**WP05**<sub>560masl</sub> and **WP06**<sub>541masl</sub>). Study of the map, more so the Google Image, shows that the area to the immediate SW has been cleared and ploughed and there is active soil erosion happening – at one point around 15cm of fresh surface soil has been swept off the farmland and dumped on to the track.

### Perched falcon

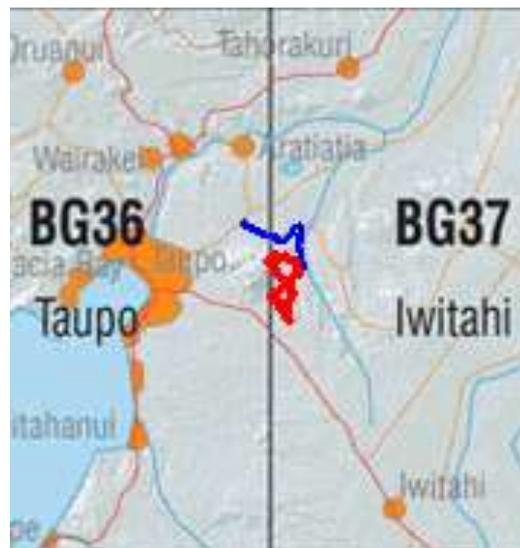


At around two hours there is a bend to the right (**WP07**<sub>581masl</sub>) then views of Mt Tauhara can be observed and the route heads through quite rolling terrain to the NW as it shadows the overhead power lines (**WP08**<sub>557masl</sub>) before turning sharply to the NE. A small track junction is then arrived at (**WP09**<sub>508masl</sub>) with a track heading off to the N aiming at the power lines but the route continues straight ahead to the NE to eventually arrive at a road junction. On the day the group were 'buzzed' by a very angry falcon as this junction (**WP10**<sub>473masl</sub>) was approached.

If you are ever running the Tauhara half or quarter marathon the next section is not to be enjoyed as it is a never ending hill where over 150metres altitude is gained – this is leg wearying territory even for the walker or trumper. Near the top of the hill there is a small Y-junction (**WP12**<sub>596masl</sub>) where the tramp route goes left on the bigger road then it is up towards the obvious pass which will have been seen during the hill ascent.

A bit of respite can be had at a small minor crest which is the point where the half marathon route leaves the road and heads left NW in to the paddocks (**WP13**<sub>630masl</sub>). However for the tramp the pain is not over and the ascent continues up the road to the NE for a few hundred metres or so to a point where a bund has been constructed to block the road off (**WP14**<sub>678masl</sub>). On crossing this bund a larger road is met where by going left another section of climbing hits the legs to get up to the Fire Lookout (**WP15**<sub>704masl</sub>). The views from here are very good with even Titiraupenga being clearly visible, this makes a good lunch spot. After this it is back down the road, this road leads to the quarry and it would not be advisable to walk down through the quarry area.

Whilst walking down the first few hundred metres of this road look for a suitable point to get over the fence so that a bit of bush bashing can be done to the east down the very steep, loose gravelly slope heading towards the paddocks. For much of the way a fence line – electric fence – was followed, the fence was not powered! Eventually it is possible to get below where the electric fence runs along more or less on the contour (**WP16**<sub>563masl</sub>) where the steepness eases as the paddock land is approached and entered near a farm gate (**WP17**<sub>479masl</sub>) to turn to the right on a "green" road. From here it is a case of following the nose heading slowly downhill passing other joining roads or tracks (**WP18**<sub>442masl</sub>) to eventually arrive at yet another farm gate (**WP19**<sub>387masl</sub>). The land around this point can be soggy or even ponded after heavy rain but does offer the opportunity to remove "country pancake" material from the boots. From this gate it is 500m up a gravel road towards and into the forest to the SE and arrive back at the starting point.



Blue line = Access

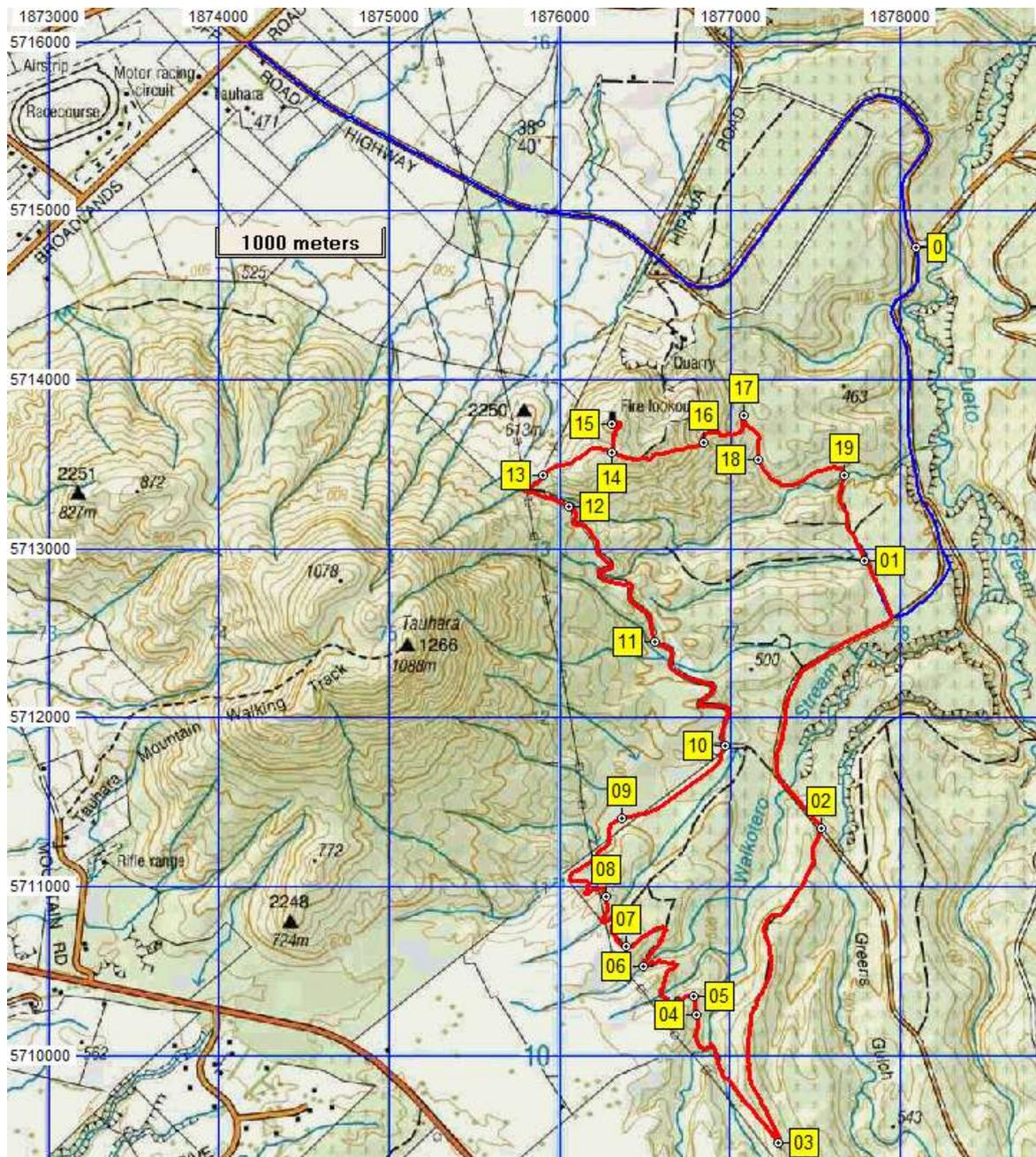
Red line = Tramp route

### Parked up ready to go

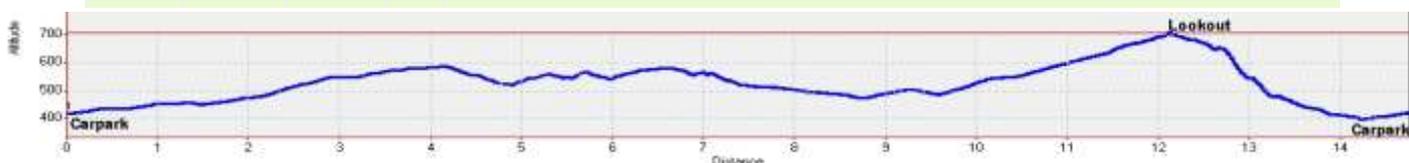


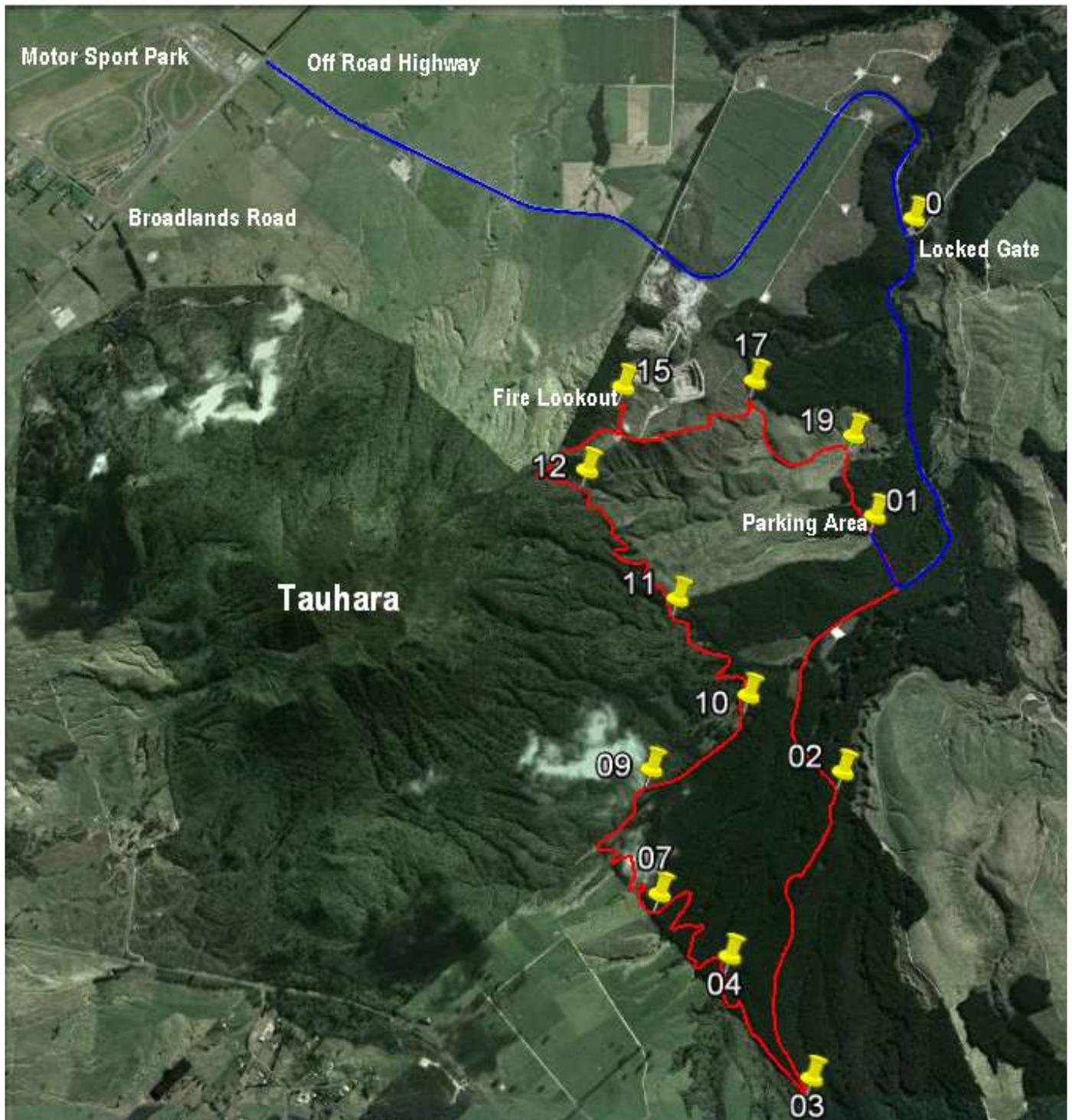
### Fire Lookout





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
0	1878093	5714784		Locked gate at bend on Off Road Highway 5.8km from Broadlands Rd
01	1877786	5712927	416	Car park
02	1877534	5711347	476	2km (24min); Turn right off road to track at marker post 7
03	1877284	5709483	587	4.2km (58min); Sharp bend on low crest then downhill
04	1876807	5710243	548	5.2km (1:14min); On old road below fairly high local bluff then uphill section
05	1876787	5710352	560	5.3km (1:16min); Sharp left and downhill then over incised stream at next bend
06	1876488	5710532	541	6km (1:27min); Sharp bend with stream line gullied to 3m depth on right
07	1876393	5710643	581	6.6km (1:50min); Bend to the right then view of Mt Tauhara
08	1876270	5710944	557	7km (1:58min); Rolling section of track under power lines
09	1876359	5711405	506	7.9km (2:10min); T-junction with left heading at power lines, continue straight NE
10	1876970	5711840	473	8.7km (2:28min); Meet road junction going left just after being buzzed by angry falcon
11	1876559	5712452	501	9.7km (2:41min); On long grinding hill on gravel road (1/2 marathon hill)
12	1876052	5713256	596	11km (2:58min); Y-junction go left, still on the hill
13	1875903	5713436	630	11.4km (3:05min); Point where 1/2 marathon goes to paddocks, stay on road going uphill
14	1876306	5713571	678	11.9km (3:14min); Road blocked off to traffic, over bump to go left for lookout
15	1876305	5713743	704	12.2km (3:50min); Fire Lookout. Back down access road, go left then right over fence and downhill
16	1876845	5713625	563	13km (4:10min); Lower slope of steep bush-bash descent below electric fence
17	1877079	5713784	479	13.4km (4:23min); Off the hill to grazing land and farm gate, right on green road
18	1877164	5713523	442	13.6km (4:28min); Two other roads enter from right just before watering point for cattle
19	1877672	5713433	397	14.2km (4:36min); Paddock gate then up gravel road towards and into forest, 500m to carpark





From : 27-Nov-13 08:37:44  
 To : 27-Nov-13 13:21:24

Time taken : 4:43:40  
 Total Distance : 14.779 Km  
**GPS Distance: 15.5km**  
 Minimum Speed : 0.003 KPH  
 Maximum Speed : 9.230 KPH  
 Average Speed : 3.126 KPH

Minimum Altitude : 398 Meters  
 Maximum Altitude : 707 Meters  
**GPS ascent 480metres**

**Tauhara plus eroding farmland**



**Old volcanic plug**



Notes:

- GPS Garmin GPSmap 62sc
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS unit)