

WAIKATO RIVER TRAIL – Snowsill Reserve to SH1 Atiamuri

Topo50 Maps: BF36 Atiamuri

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo northwards on **SH1** to cross the bridge at Atiamuri (30min)
- Turn left to SH30
- Straight ahead at cross roads to Flavell Road (N) and Tram Road (S)
- Snowsill Reserve is 3km past the cross roads on the LHS WP1

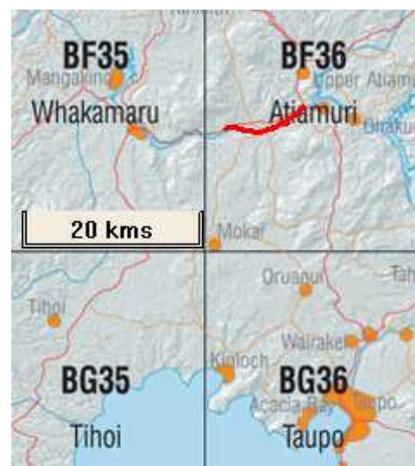
Drive time from Taupo approximately 1:20 minutes.

Rough description: This section of the walk is actually rather boring and inclined to be a bit of a route-march. There is some good scenery once near Atiamuri but the magnificent bluffs and river gorge views are far fewer and less spectacular. The track varies greatly and is still under development, there are no hills to ascend but there are 11km to cover whilst altitude loss gain is only 20 metres.

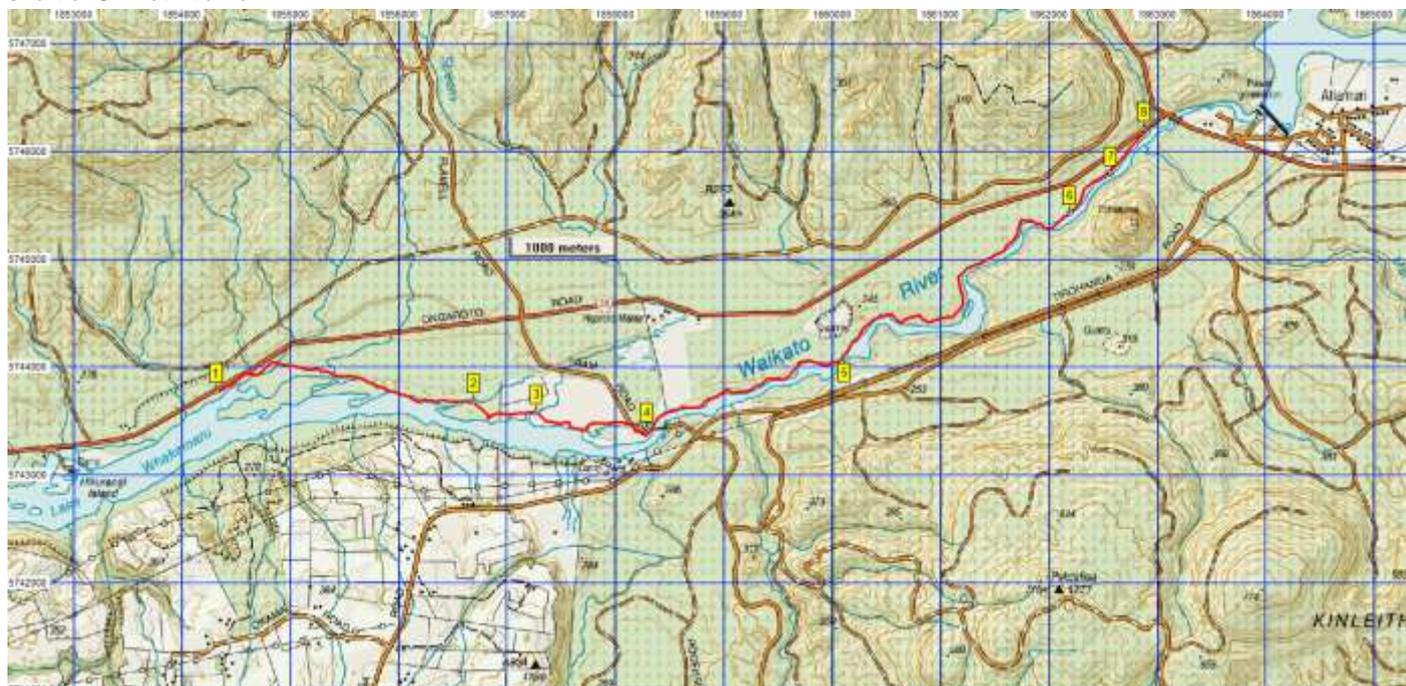
Detail: The first few hundred metres of this section of the trail from Snowsill Reserve (**WP1**^{231masl}) is obviously still under development but there are plenty of direction arrows to be found when new routes are being / have been invoked. Blackberries seem to be plentiful around here so be wary and avoid close encounters.

The track branches back up to the edge of the highway at one point but soon it heads off through or round the edge of farmland. Within 30 minutes a river-flat meadow is crossed and there is a small board-walk bridge (**WP2**^{231masl}) over the stream line in the middle with another after one hour (**WP3**^{230masl}). The waypoint data confirm what you see and walk over – it is virtually flat!

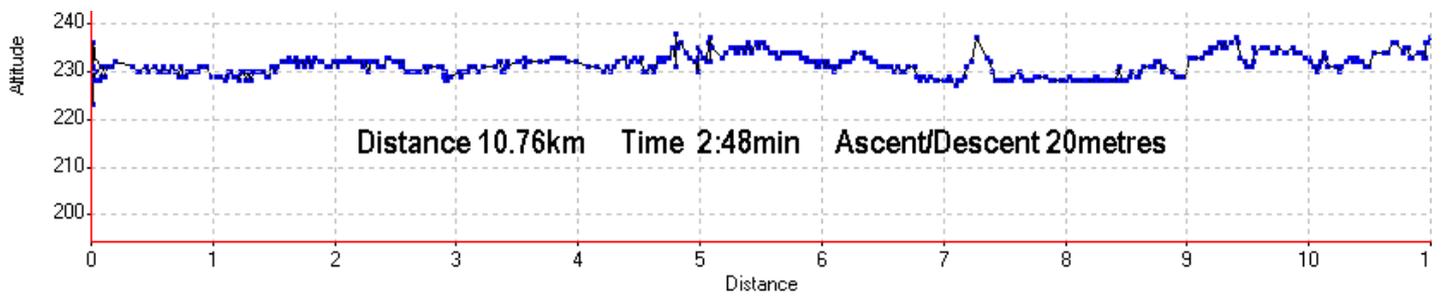
The trail then follows quite closely to the river edge as it skirts the edge of grazing paddocks to eventually pass under Tram Road (**WP4**^{225masl}) before heading NE. A small river jetty (**WP5**^{228masl}) is encountered after about 1:45min – this is the water feed pick-up for the quarry upslope from the river. From this point onwards the scenery improves, or at least it becomes visible and good views of Pohaturoa (**WP6**^{234masl}), with some obvious artefacts sticking up on the top, come into view. A small cave is also seen in the bluff on the opposite bank of the river (**WP7**^{232masl}) ten minutes before the track emerges back out onto SH30 (**WP8**^{240masl}) just short of SH1 at Atiamuri.



- RED line is tramp route



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
1	1854322	5743784	231	Snowsill Reserve
2	1856691	5743694	231	30min (22.57km); Small boardwalk bridge over stream in flat meadows
3	1857275	5743590	230	1hour (3.23km); Boardwalk over stream line
4	1858296	5743424	225	1:30min (4.41km); Underpass on Tram Road
5	1860117	5744106	228	1:45min (6.61km); Small jetty with water pump below quarry
6	1862195	5745433	234	2:20min (9.68km); Good view across river to Pohaturoa
7	1862575	5745801	232	2:40min (10.22km); Cave in bluff on far bank of river
8	1862879	5746211	240	2:48min (10.76km); Edge of SH30 just before SH1 and Atiamuri



The cave



Flat meadow



Pohaturoa



GPS Notes:

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