

# Get out and enjoy walks in Auckland's conservation areas

These day walks offer an escape from city life to Auckland's forests and undeveloped places on public conservation land in the Auckland region.

They range from 30 minute easy 'short walks' to full day 'tramping tracks' suitable for more experienced trampers (see track classification on back panel). Walking times are one way unless stated otherwise. Walking shoes or light boots are recommended for short walks and walking tracks in dry conditions. Boots should be worn for tramping tracks and on all tracks in wet conditions.

The walks cross both public and private land. All are looked after by the Department of Conservation (DOC), with the exception of the Te Araroa (the Long Pathway) tracks through the Dome, Mt Tamahunga and Okura areas.

The walks across private land are open to the public thanks to the goodwill of landowners. Please respect their property, keep to the tracks and don't disturb farm animals. Some tracks are closed during lambing season.

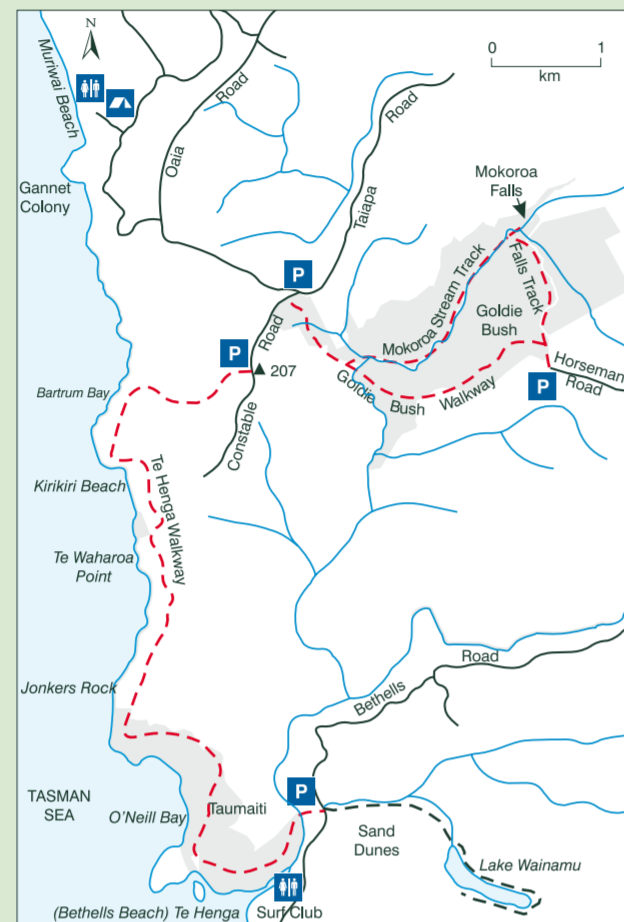


## Te Henga - Goldie Bush Walkway

Cliff-top walk from Bethells Beach (Te Henga) to south of Muriwai Beach (or reverse) with stunning views of Auckland's wild west coast. The nearby Goldie Bush Scenic Reserve offers a variety of walks through coastal kauri forest, taking in the impressive Mokoroa Falls.

### Te Henga Walkway

**Access:** From Bethells Beach (Te Henga), the track is sign-posted near a bridge 1 km before the end of Bethells Rd opposite Lake Wainamu carpark. The northern entrance is from Constable Rd, off Oaia Rd, 10 km down the Muriwai Beach turn off from Waimauku, SH16.



**Length:** Bethells Rd to O'Neill's Bay, 2 km, 45 minutes

Bethells Rd to Constable Rd, 10.5 km, 3.5 – 4.5 hours

From Bethells Rd the Te Henga Walkway crosses the Waitakere River by footbridge, rising along a graded section, to superb views of lagoons, dunes and the west coast surf down to O'Neill Bay, where you can return along Bethells Beach.

To continue along Te Henga Walkway, the track climbs steeply then follows along the cliff-top where you may see gannets diving for fish. The track exits, through a farm valley and another steep climb, to Constable Rd. Care is needed on this track, which traverses coastal cliffs and is uneven and muddy in places (an upgrade is planned).

**Note:** The northern farmland section of the track crosses private land and is closed for lambing 1 August to 1 October (this does not include the section from Bethells Road to O'Neill Bay).

### Goldie Bush Walkway

**Access:** From either Constable Rd or Horseman Rd.

**Length:** Goldie Bush Walkway (Constable Rd – Horseman Rd) 4 km, 1.5 hours (walking track)

Mokoroa Stream Track, 2.3 km, 1 hour (tramping track)

Horseman Rd to Mokoroa Falls, 1.4 km, 30 minutes (walking track)

Goldie Bush Walkway can be walked from either Constable Rd or Horseman Rd. From Constable Rd the walkway descends through the Motutara Scenic Reserve to cross Mokoroa Stream then enters the Goldie Bush Scenic Reserve, climbing through coastal forest with regenerating kauri, to exit at Horseman Rd, or return the way you came.



Te Henga Walkway. Photo: Katrina Knill

For a longer, more challenging loop walk, the Mokoroa Stream Track leaves the Goldie Bush Walkway at the Mokoroa Stream crossing and follows the stream, crossing it a number of times, before exiting on the true left just below the Mokoroa Falls. The track climbs steeply to reach the Falls Track, where a new lookout platform offers views of the falls. Continue along the Falls track and turn right at the junction with Goldie Bush Walkway to return to Constable Rd. A left turn at the junction will take you to the exit at Horseman Rd.

To walk to Mokoroa Falls from Horseman Rd, follow the Goldie Bush Walkway for 5 minutes, then take the right hand fork onto the Mokoroa Falls track, which descends down a ridge to the lookout platform.

**Note:** The Mokoroa Stream Track has multiple stream crossings and is suitable for more experienced trampers.

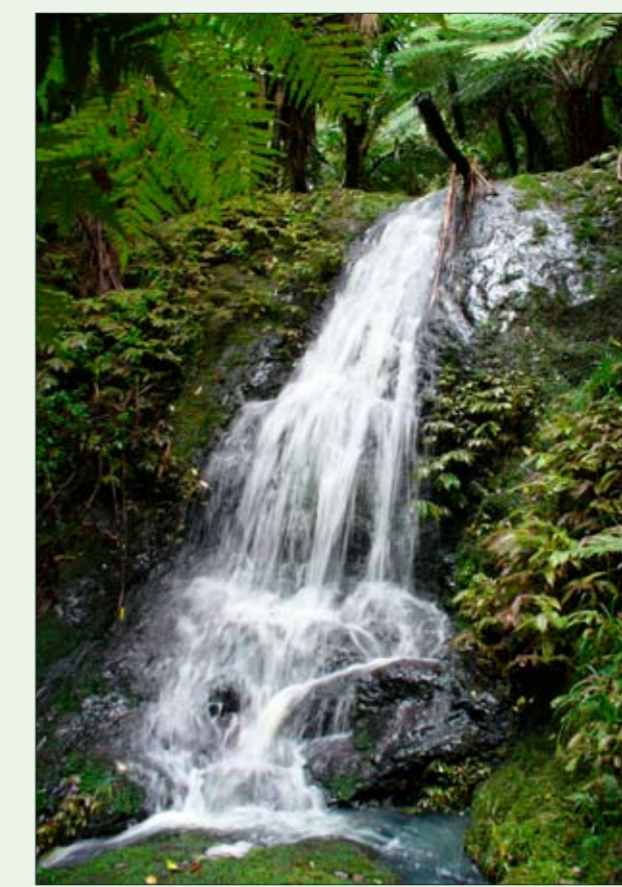
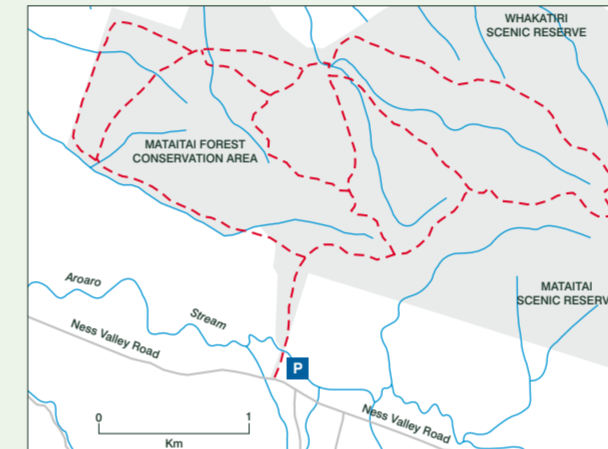
### Mataitai Forest (Ness Valley) Walks

A network of marked tracks in the Mataitai Conservation Area, near Clevedon, suitable for experienced trampers. Use the on-site sign to plan your walk before leaving the carpark.

**Access:** There is a carpark on the left, 4.5 km down Ness Valley Rd, off Clevedon Kaiua Rd.

**Length:** 2 – 8 hrs depending on which combination of tracks is selected.

Access to all tracks is from the main carpark via the track across the pedestrian bridge. The tracks are being upgraded over time and you can get up-to-date track information from the DOC Visitor Centre in the Ferry Building, downtown Auckland.



Mataitai. Photo: Katrina Knill

### Miranda Walks

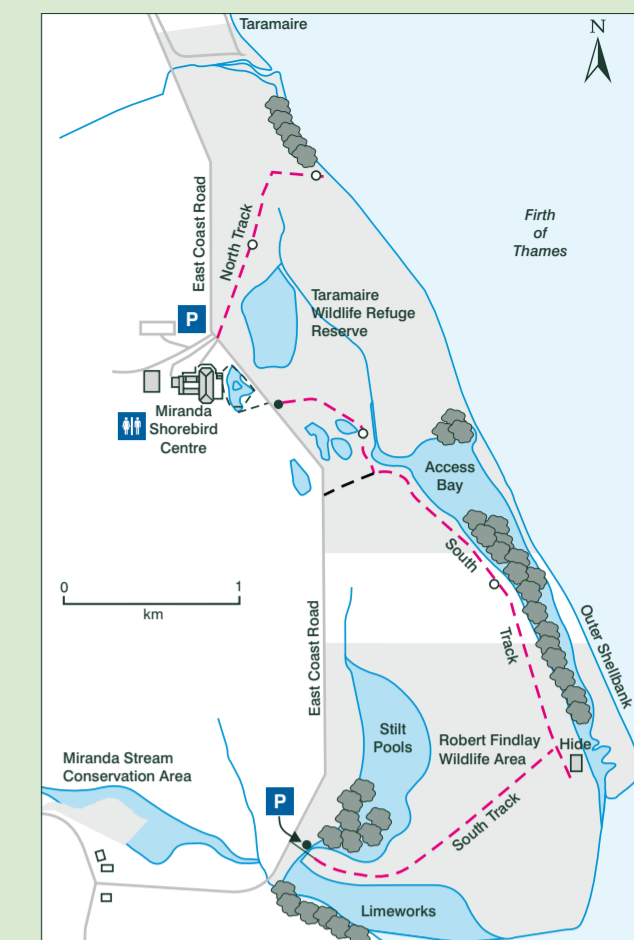
Two short tracks take you across a reserve and wildlife area, next to the internationally important wetland on the Firth of Thames at Miranda, where you can see a variety of migratory and local shorebirds. Stop at the Miranda Shorebird Centre for further information about the area. Binoculars are recommended for bird watching.

**Access:** From the Miranda Shorebird Centre carpark, on East Coast Rd, just north of Miranda.

**Length:** Miranda north track 750m or 5 minutes. Miranda south track 2.3 km or 30 minutes

#### Miranda north track

Starts from the road side opposite the Shorebird Centre and crosses the Taramaire Wildlife Refuge Reserve

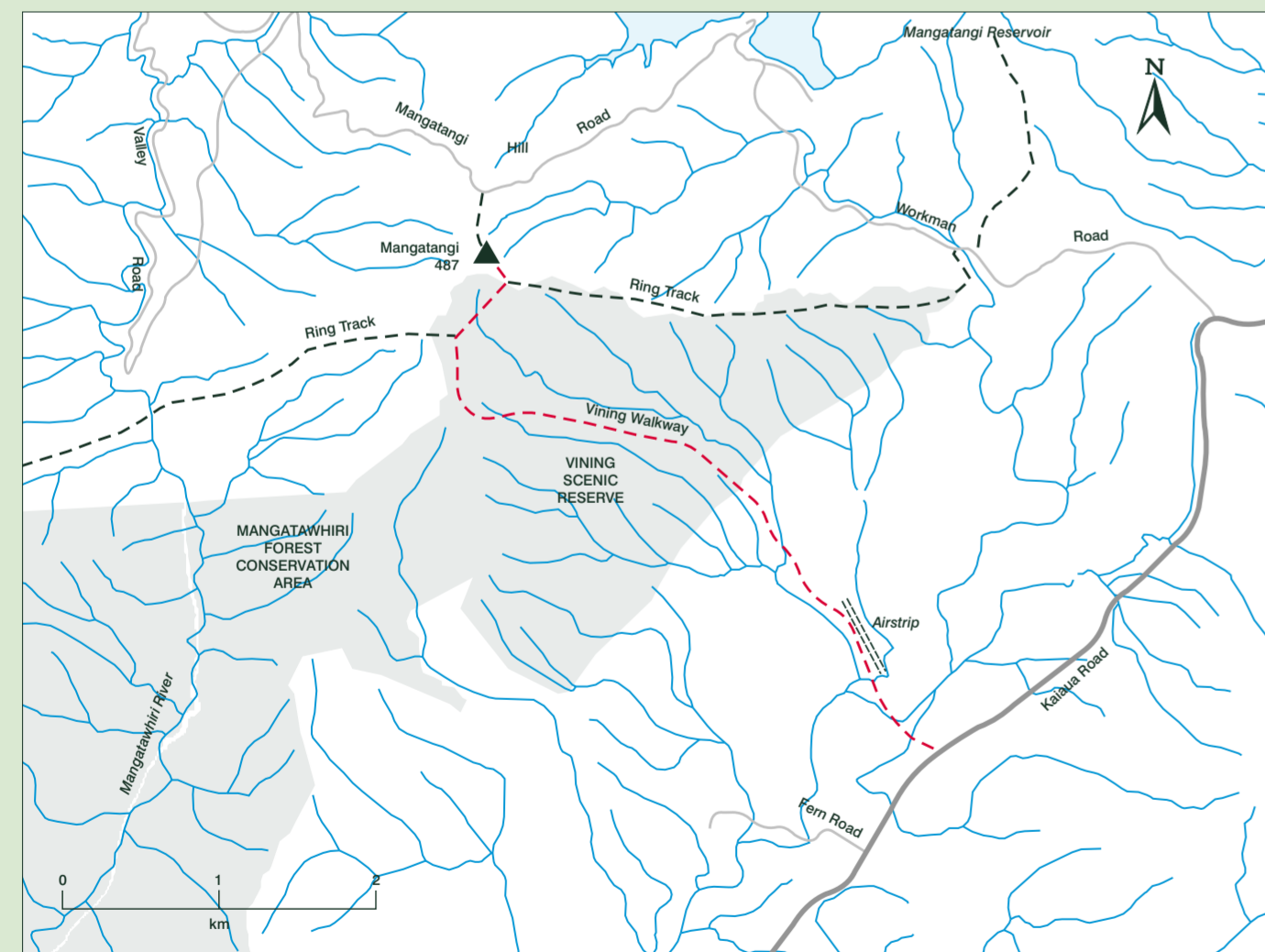


(managed by DOC) through farmland before reaching the shelly beach foreshore of the Firth of Thames (follow yellow marker poles).

#### Miranda south track

The track starts about 100 m south of the Miranda Shorebird Centre and crosses through the Robert Findlay Wildlife Area (managed by QE II National Trust) and traverses farmland along the edge of the Firth of Thames (follow orange marker poles). There is great bird watching along the coastal section of this walk, before it loops back to the Shorebird Centre carpark.

**Note:** Be aware of stock and leave all gates as you find them. **Take care crossing the busy East Coast Rd.**



### Vining Walkway

A 5-hour return walk up to and through the podocarp forest of the Vining Scenic Reserve (460 ha), south of the Hunua Range.

**Access:** Vining Walkway is sign-posted next to a farm gate and stile, off Kaiua Rd, 6 km from the Mangatangi Rd turnoff.

**Length:** 5.1 km or 2.5 hours

The route is marked with orange poles and triangles and follows a fence line across paddocks, crosses a stony stream and follows the stream to an open paddock,

before entering the steep hills of Vining Scenic Reserve. The track follows a narrow ridge through open forest including kanuka, puriri, beech and kauri, before joining the Auckland Regional Council Ring Track on the main ridge. Turn right to reach the graded summit at Mangatangi trig and panoramic views.

**Note:** Crosses private land. Take care crossing the stream, especially in wet weather.

### Mt William Walkway

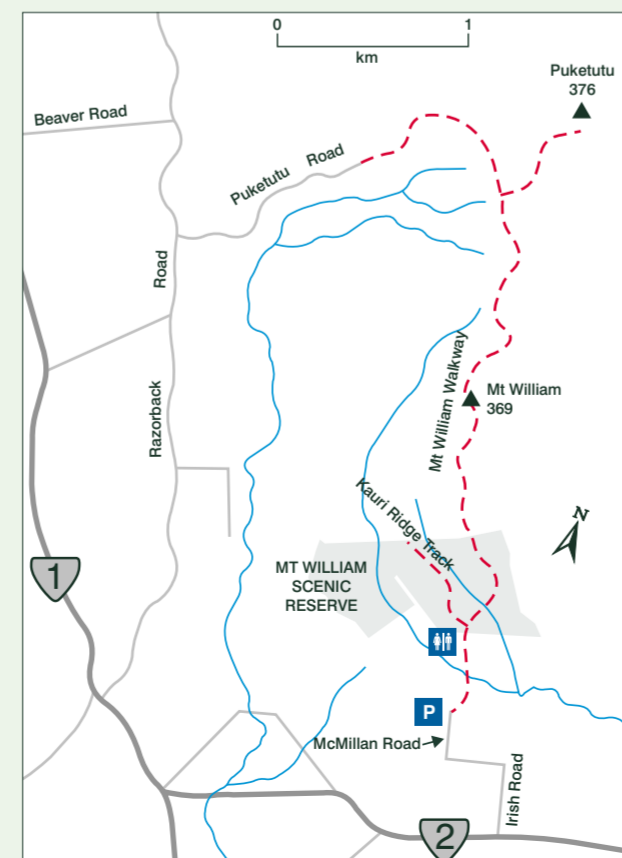
Walk to the summit of Mt William or take a shorter walk to a kauri grove, through Mt William Scenic Reserve, just south of the Bombay Hills.

**Access:** The main carpark is on McMillan Rd, off Irish Rd, which is off SH2, 50 km south of Auckland. Alternatively start from the other end of the track on Puketutu Rd, off Razorback Rd, which can be accessed from Beaver Rd, off SH1.

**Length:** McMillan Rd carpark to Mt William summit, 2.5 km, 1.5 hours (walking track)

Mt William summit on to Puketutu trig and Puketutu Rd, 2 km, 1.5 hours (tramping track)

McMillan Rd carpark to kauri grove, 1.5 km, 40 minutes (walking track)



Mt William. Photo: Matt Ward

From the McMillan Rd end, the track follows a farm fence line with markers to the Mt William Scenic Reserve. The reserve hosts a wide variety of native trees and shrubs, including kauri, hard beech and king ferns. From the Mt William summit (369 m) there are expansive views to the west coast and Firth of Thames. The track continues along a saddle of rolling farm land to Puketutu trig (376 m) and Puketutu Rd.

For the shorter walk, the Kauri Ridge Track follows the Mt William Walkway from McMillan Rd as far as the fence line, where you enter the reserve. Turn left at the sign, cross the left-hand stile and follow the track, which climbs steeply to the kauri grove. Return the same way.

**Note:** Walkway crosses private land and parts of the track may be closed for lambing from 1 August to 1 October (check with DOC).



Grey warbler. Photo: M.F. Soper

### Take care visiting natural areas



Photo: Lyn Stulich

### Further information

**Dogs are not permitted** on the tracks in this brochure because of the threat they pose to stock and wildlife. Exceptions include certified guide dogs and permitted hunting dogs.

**Short walk:** up to an hour of easy walking on a well formed track, suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Walking shoes recommended.

**Walking track:** formed track, suitable for people of most ages and abilities. Walking shoes or light boots recommended.

**Tramping track:** marked track, which may have steep grades, suitable for fit, experienced and adequately equipped people. It's recommended you wear tramping boots and take a topographical map, compass, warm clothing, raincoat, first aid kit, food and drink. You should tell someone of your intentions and check in with them on your return.

Please note that DOC is upgrading some tracks, which may be closed or re-routed as a result. Contact DOC or see the website for the latest information.

**For further information:** contact your local DOC office or the Auckland DOC Visitor Centre, ph 09 379 6476, email: [aucklandvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:aucklandvc@doc.govt.nz)

This track is part of Te Araroa - A walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff [www.teararoa.org.nz](http://www.teararoa.org.nz)

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**DOC HOTline**  
0800 362 468  
Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies  
For fire and search and rescue call 111

Cover: Okura Bush Walkway. Photo: Fiona Oliphant  
New Zealand Government

## Auckland Day Walks

Auckland

2008



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai



Grassy hooded orchid Photo: DOC

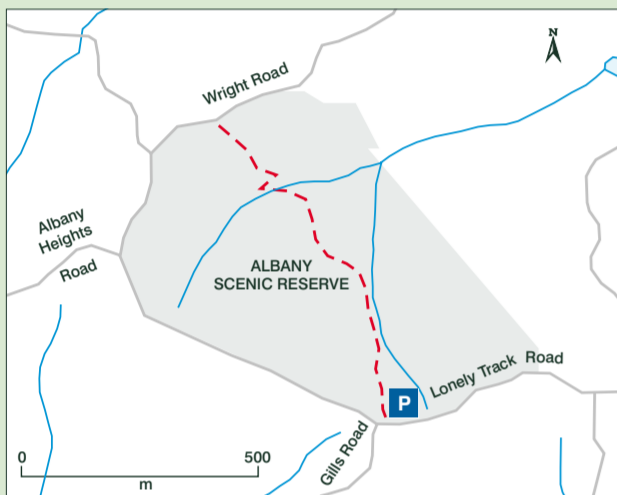
### Albany Scenic Reserve track

Kauri trees and native orchids are highlights of this short walk through the Albany Scenic Reserve, just north of Auckland.

**Access:** The carpark is on the northern side of Lonely Track Rd, near the junction with Gills Rd, north of Albany.

**Length:** 1.2 km or 30 minutes

The track descends into manuka and kanuka scrub and crosses a small stream before climbing and descending again to a large kauri. From here the track climbs steadily through a small stand of kauri trees to the Wright Rd exit. Walk back the way you came or via the road (be careful of traffic).



### Moirs Hill Walkway

Stroll to view the Pohuehue waterfall or walk the longer loop (also known as the Beverley Price Loop Track) through regenerating forest in the Pohuehue Scenic Reserve, just south of Warkworth.

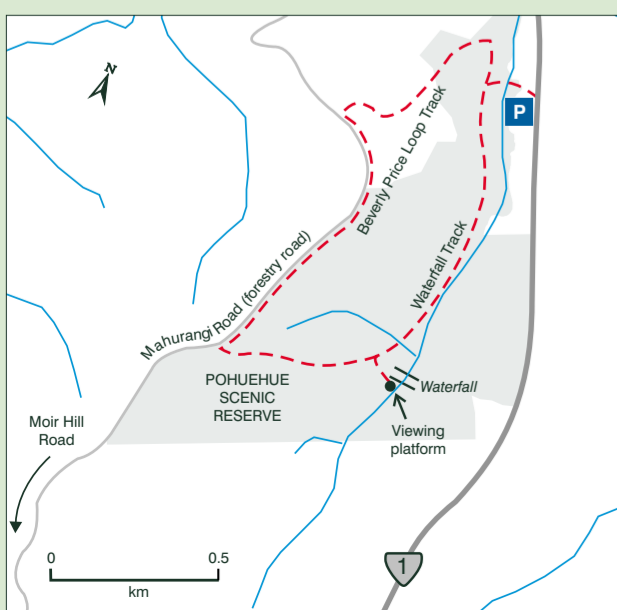
**Access:** Walkway entrance (sign posted) is on the western side of SH1 just north of the Pohuehue viaduct, between Waiwera and Warkworth, 66 km north of Auckland off SH1.

**Length:** Waterfall Track 1 km, 30 minute return

Beverley Price Look Track 6 km, 2 hour loop, best done clockwise

The track drops down to the Pohuehue Stream and into native forest to a track junction. For both options follow the signs left at the junction to take the waterfall track alongside the stream. This passes a side track to a small waterfall with a lookout platform. Return from here or continue on the loop track.

The next section on the Beverley Price Loop Track is rough and can be slippery when muddy. From the waterfall turn left and follow the markers up the gully to the junction with the forestry road. Turn right and follow this road along the ridge to the signposted turn off. Take this track to complete the loop, returning to the bridge first crossed near the carpark.



### Dome Forest and Totara Peak Scenic Reserve walks

A choice of short walks, or for more experienced trampers, a more challenging longer walk, both through regenerating native forest. The longer track is part of Te Araroa –The Long Pathway.

**Access:** The walks start or finish beside the Dome tearooms, 7 km north of Warkworth on SH1, 74 km north of Auckland.

**Dome carpark to lookout**

**Length:** 1 km to lookout, 40 minutes

Starting from the Dome tearooms carpark, steps lead up along a narrow road reserve to the Dome Forest conservation area (401 ha). The track passes through mixed podocarp and broadleaf forest and follows a ridge to a lookout platform, with views across the Mahurangi Peninsula to the Hauraki Gulf.

**Note:** The Dome Walkway crosses land sacred to local iwi, please keep to the track.

**Dome carpark to Waiwhiu kauri grove**

**Length:** 3 km to Waiwhiu kauri grove, via Dome summit, 1.5 hours

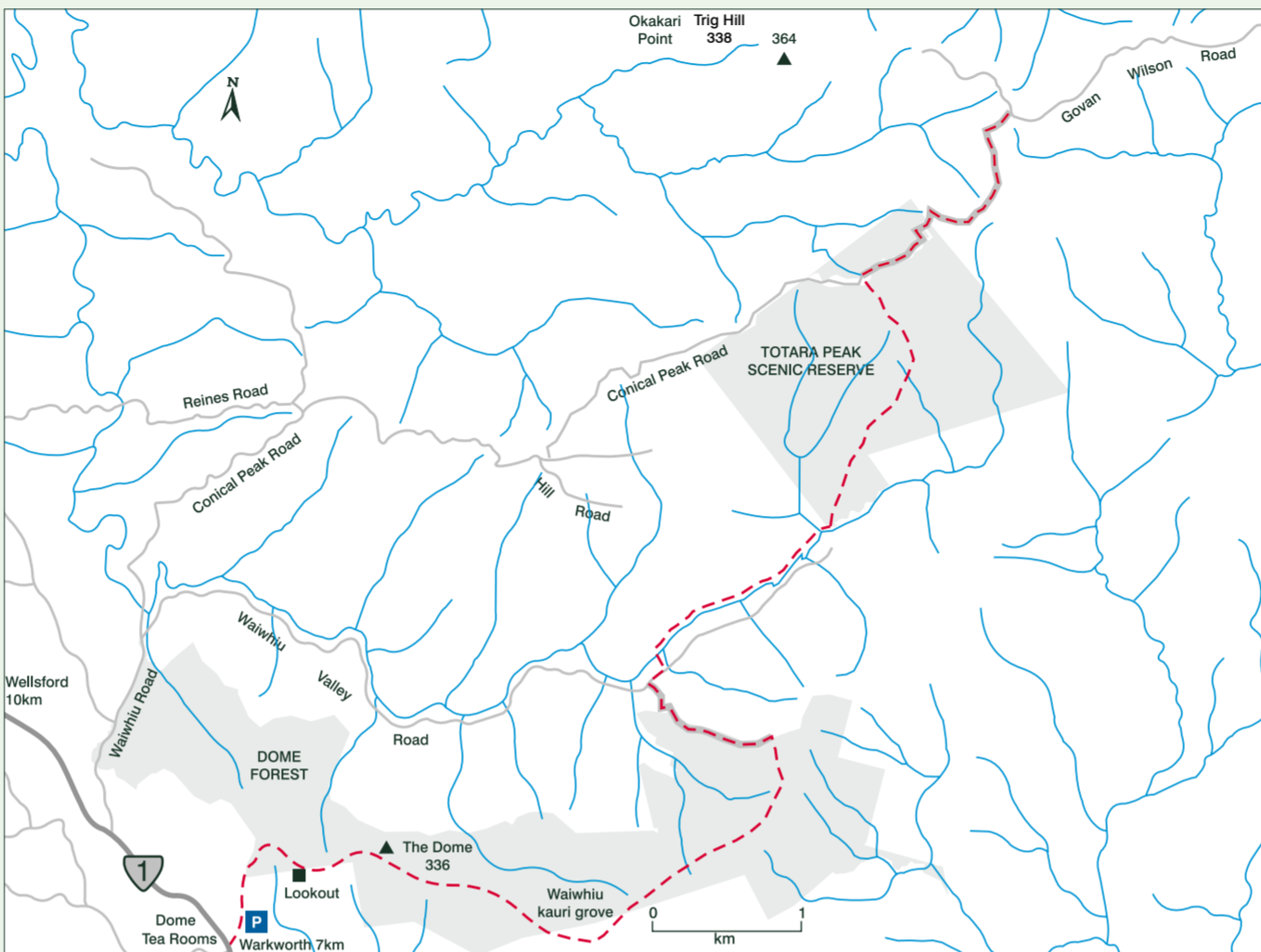
See description to the lookout above. From the lookout the track changes to a tramping track and it's a steep scramble to the Dome summit, where you can see Taranga Island (a nature reserve and the 'hen' of the Hen and Chickens Islands) in the distance. The track then descends gently beyond the Dome trig to the Waiwhiu kauri grove, where 20 mature kauri of up to 4 m girth, which have defied past logging, hint at the forest's original magnificence.



Dome Valley. Photo: Martin Sanders

### Dome carpark to Govan Wilson Rd, Matakana

**Length:** 14 km to Govan Wilson Road, 7 hours  
See previous description to Waiwhiu kauri grove. The track continues along the ridgeline through attractive forest with glimpses of the surrounding countryside and coast then descends through pines to a 4WD clay road. Turn left down the road to meet Waiwhiu Valley Rd (a private forest road). Here you turn right and take the road for 400 m to a track leading down to the Waiwhiu Stream crossing. Once over the stream, follow the bush track along the river to the right for 1.4 km before climbing steeply up into the Totara Peak Scenic Reserve.



Enjoy views while following the track along the ridge to the junction of Conical Peak Rd (clay 4WD track), turn right and follow this road northwards until it meets Govan Wilson Rd (just beside property #285).

**Note:** The track to Totara Peak Scenic Reserve crosses private land in the Waiwhiu Valley so please keep to the track or forest road. The Waiwhiu Stream may be unsafe to cross after heavy rain.

### Logues Bush

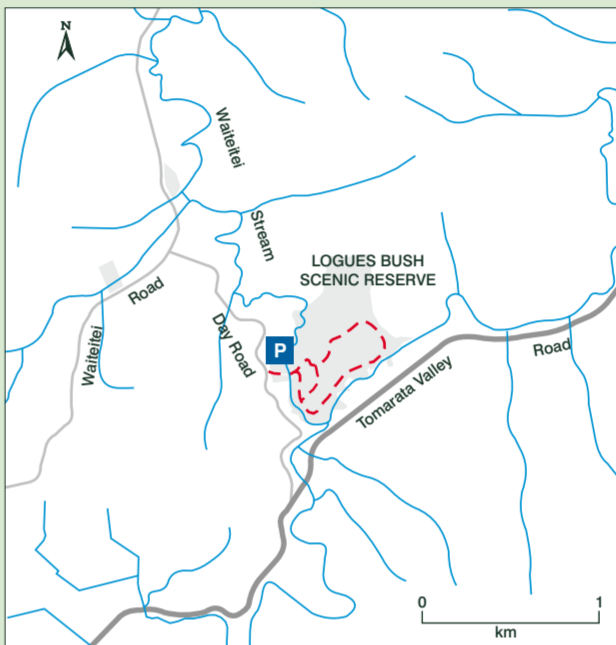
Two short tracks, east of Wellsford, loop through regenerating native kauri forest.

**Access:** Track carpark (sign posted) through unlocked farm gate off Day Rd, approx 11 km from the SH1 junction with Wayby Tomarata Rd (this leads into Tomarata Valley Rd), 85 km north of Auckland.

**Length:** 2 km, main loop 1.5 hrs, shorter loop 30 minutes

The loop starts across the bridge and is easiest walked clockwise. It leads up a ridge through young kauri and lush bush. A sign posted shorter loop track leads off from the main loop, 10 minutes from the start. This heads back down the ridge and along the river to the start. The main loop continues to the back of the reserve and then descends and follows the river back to the bridge.

Logues bush was bought from the Logue family in 1983 with contributions from the Queen Elizabeth II Trust, Dept of Lands and Survey, Rodney District Council and the Forest and Bird Society. It is now managed by DOC. Native trees in the reserve include totara, kauri and kahikatea trees that escaped logging.



### Goat Island Walkway

This return walk traverses the coast part way to Cape Rodney overlooking New Zealand's oldest and most popular marine reserve. Go snorkelling or for a ride in the Glass Bottom Boat to check out the abundant sea life.

**Access:** From the Goat Island Rd end, off Pakiri-Leigh Rd, east of Warkworth. Park at the marine reserve carpark.

**Length:** 1.5 km, 45 minutes – 1 hour (one way)

Walk up the Auckland University Marine Laboratory driveway to the start of the track. The track passes along the cliff-top beyond the marine laboratory through paddocks and fine remnants of coastal broadleaf forest. The section through the farm paddocks can be muddy and there may be stock. In the distance you can see Hauturu or Little Barrier Island, a nature reserve that is home to tuatara, giant weta and a huge variety of native birds.



Goat Island Photo: Tony and Jenny Enderby

### Mt Tamahunga Walkway

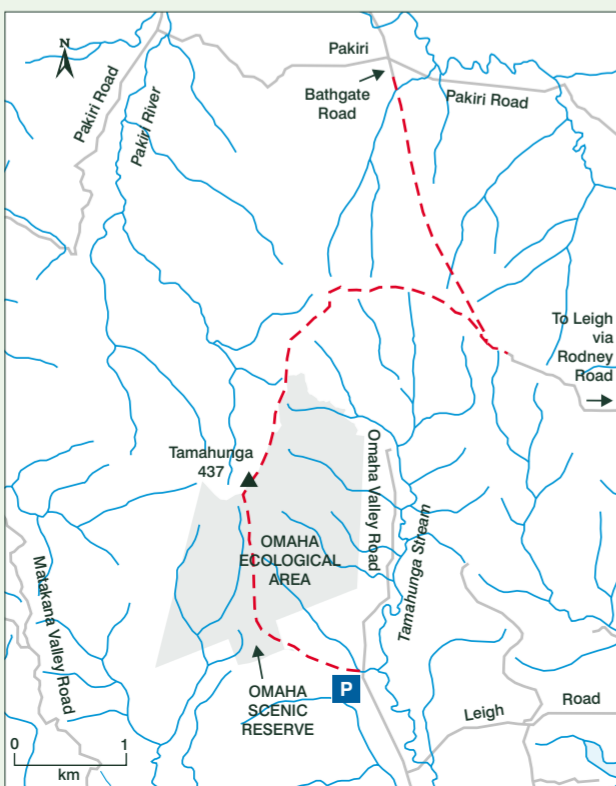
Tramp up to the summit of Mt Tamahunga through regenerating native forest. This track is part of Te Araroa – the Long Pathway.

**Access:** The carpark and sign-posted track entrance is 3.6 km down Omaha Valley Road (off Leigh Rd), Matakana (just before #109).

**Length:** 3 km to summit or 1.5 hours  
6.5 km to Rodney Road or 3.5 hours

The walkway initially climbs over farm paddocks to the bush line (please follow markers and use stiles to cross fences). Once in the bush, follow orange markers up the ridge to the summit and a helicopter pad. A rock lookout near the summit (437 m) provides a spectacular view of Omaha.

From here you can retrace your steps or continue northwards to the Rodney Rd exit. On leaving the bush, follow white markers up and down a steep route following a



farm fence line until you exit onto a farm track, which joins with the end of Rodney Road. Enjoy magnificent views up and down the coast. You can also continue the walk from Rodney Rd, 3 kms across private farmland to the end of Bathgate Road, Pakiri. Follow the white markers, please stick to the route and use the stiles to cross fences.

### Okura Bush Walkway

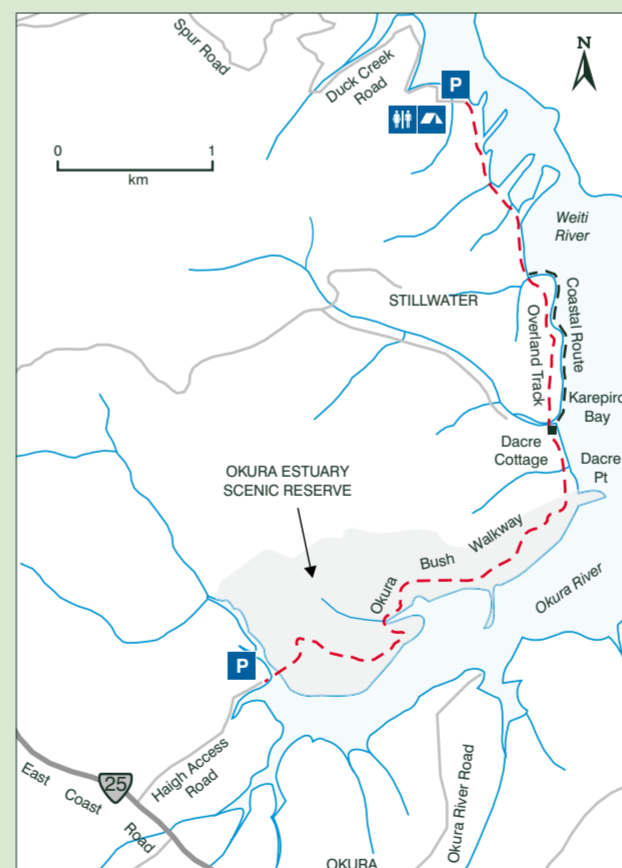
This track takes you through regenerating coastal kauri forest along the Okura River estuary, the edge of the Long Bay – Okura Marine Reserve to Karepiro Bay and historic Dacre Cottage, and on to Stillwater. This track is part of Te Araroa - the Long Pathway.

**Access:** The walkway has two entrances – Haighs Access Rd, off East Coast Rd, at the southern end and Stillwater Rd at the northern end.

**Length:** Haighs Access Rd to Dacre Cottage, 4.8 km or 1.5 hours  
Haighs Access Rd to Stillwater, 8 km or 3 hours (one way)



Okura Bush Walkway. Photo: Fiona Oliphant



From Haighs Rd the track follows the Okura River estuary through mixed coastal forest, with groves of nikau, pohutukawa and regenerating kauri. After a 20-minute hill climb the track drops down to the rivers edge where you may see a variety of wading birds such as stilts and oystercatchers. It then climbs to a headland before dropping quite steeply to Karepiro Bay, where the restored historic Dacre Cottage is located at the northern end. Dacre Cottage was built in the 1850s by Henry Dacre, son of the retired sea captain Ranulf Dacre, who bought the Weiti block in 1848.

If heading to Stillwater, you can follow the coastline at low tide, or take the overland track, climbing steeply above the coastal cliffs, with good views of Karepiro Bay and the Hauraki Gulf, before dropping back to the Weiti River estuary. From here the track follows the river, crossing private land to the Stillwater carpark.



Mt Auckland. Photo: Fiona Oliphant



Dacre Cottage. Photo: Fiona Oliphant

### Mount Auckland (Atuanui) Walkway

Walk to the summit of Mount Auckland (Atuanui) through regenerating native forest, with spectacular views out over the nearby Kaipara Harbour and Hotoe River estuary. This mountain is sacred to local iwi.

**Access:** The track entrance is signposted 3 km down Glorit-Kaipara Hills Rd, off Kaipara Coast Highway (SH16), 70 km north-west of Auckland. An alternative but steeper ascent is via the track sign posted on SH16, 2 km north of the Glorit-Kaipara Rd turnoff.

**Length:** Glorit-Kaipara Hills Rd to summit, 3.5 km,  
1 hour 45 minutes

SH 16 to summit, 3.5 km, 1 hour 45 minutes

From Glorit-Kaipara Hills Rd the walkway follows an airstrip and logging track along the ridge to the Atuanui forest, which has fine stands of regenerating rimu and kauri. It continues up a narrow ridge with side tracks to view mature kauri. A lookout at the summit (305 m) provides panoramic views. From here you can retrace your steps or take the track westward to the Kaipara Coast Highway exit, which is a steeper descent. This end of the track exits through farm land to SH16.

**Note:** The Kaipara Coast Highway access to the forest edge is closed 1 August to 30 September for lambing. Please keep to the track as it crosses land sacred to local iwi.

