

KAIKAWAKA SLAB HUT (Kaikawaka Villa)

Topo50 Map: BH34 Raurimu

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo southwards on **SH1** to Turangi
- In Turangi take **SH41** towards Tokaanu and turn left to **SH47**
- Pass the turn off to Whakapapa in 1:10min
- Turn right on to **SH4** at National Park in 1:17min
- Continue to Raurimu (5km), turn right on the mauve coloured road on the map which leads to the Raurimu Station woolshed (**WP01697masl**), another 5km

Rough description. This tramp is on an active sheep farm and access permission is required from the Station Manager. The tramp can be described as a short walk, albeit hilly at times, through a sheep station which looks like a manicured area of parkland. There are basically drivable farm tracks to follow or parallel most of the way. There are several gates to pass through so remember your "country code" and leave them as you find them, one stile and one stream to cross so nothing too taxing. Total distance is 7 – 8km, taking three to four hours whilst ascending a total of less than 300metres.

Detail: From the woolshed (**WP01697masl**), which does have a fully flushing drop toilet, presumably for the shearers, a gravelly farm road leads uphill basically heading ENE then loops round to the SE. The road soon changes to vehicle tracks in grassy paddock but the walking line does not always follow the tracks but does parallel them. Within 15-20minutes a high point (**WP02759masl**) is reached close to farm gates. From here follow the fence line to reach another farm gate (**WP03763masl**) which is used to then continue in the same direction but on the opposite side of the fence.

In 30 to 45 minutes a double set of farm gates is approached (**WP04773masl**) but do not go through these – unless you want to find the elusive DoC orange track marker attached to the back of the gate indicating where the track goes. Basically at this point the route does a tight turn and heads to the WSW on an obvious track through the paddock bordering the forest on the left hand side.

Vegetation shelters for the animals



About 400m down this track a stile with an orange DoC marker is located (**WP05762masl**) and the Slab Hut is found a few metres down this track.



Good smoko spot at WP04



History of the hut is to be found on the **National Park Village** Facebook page as follows:

Built in the 1930's by George and Charlie Bowley as a base for splitting battens from Kaikawaka and Kahikatea (white pine). The brothers lived there during the weekdays and returned to Raurimu for the weekends. The Villa, as they cheekily called the hut, was built by hand from four Kaikawaka trees and cut into slabs.

DoC carried out essential restoration work in 1996 and the site is now registered as a category 1 Historic Site by New Zealand Historic Places Trust. This is one of the very few remaining bush slab huts which were commonplace at one time. Access is by arrangement over the Raurimu Landcorp farm



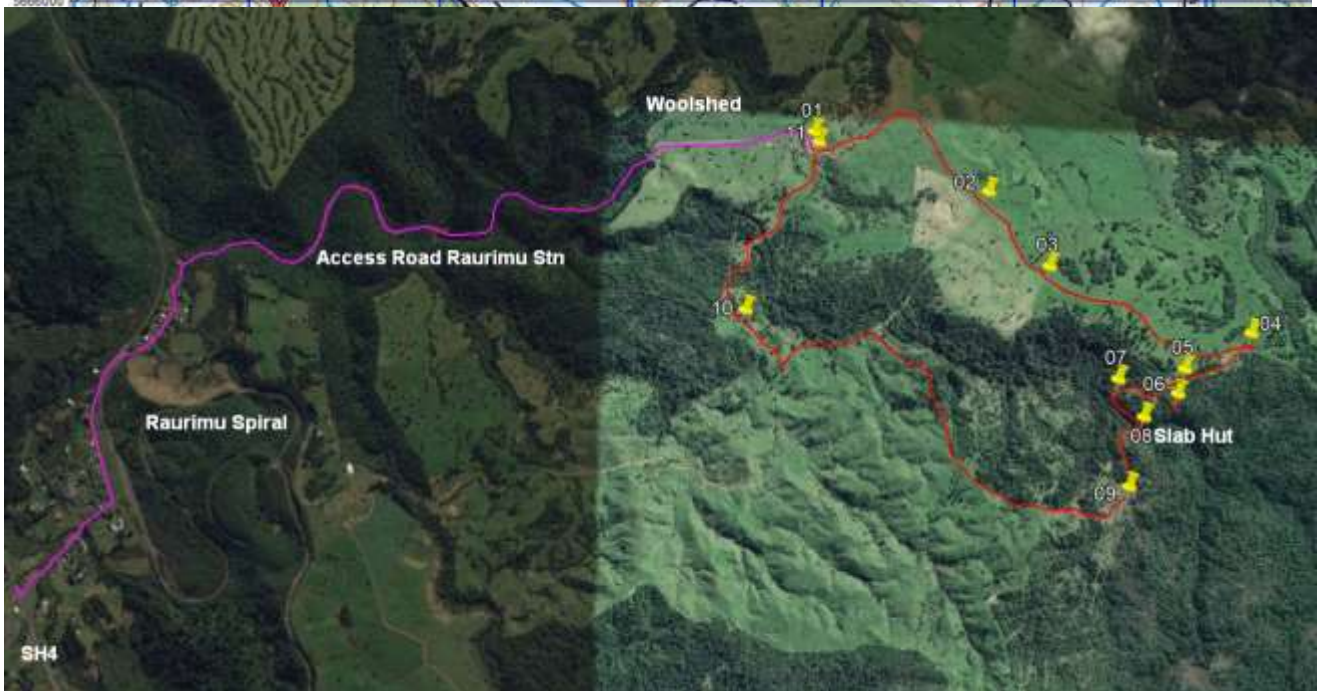
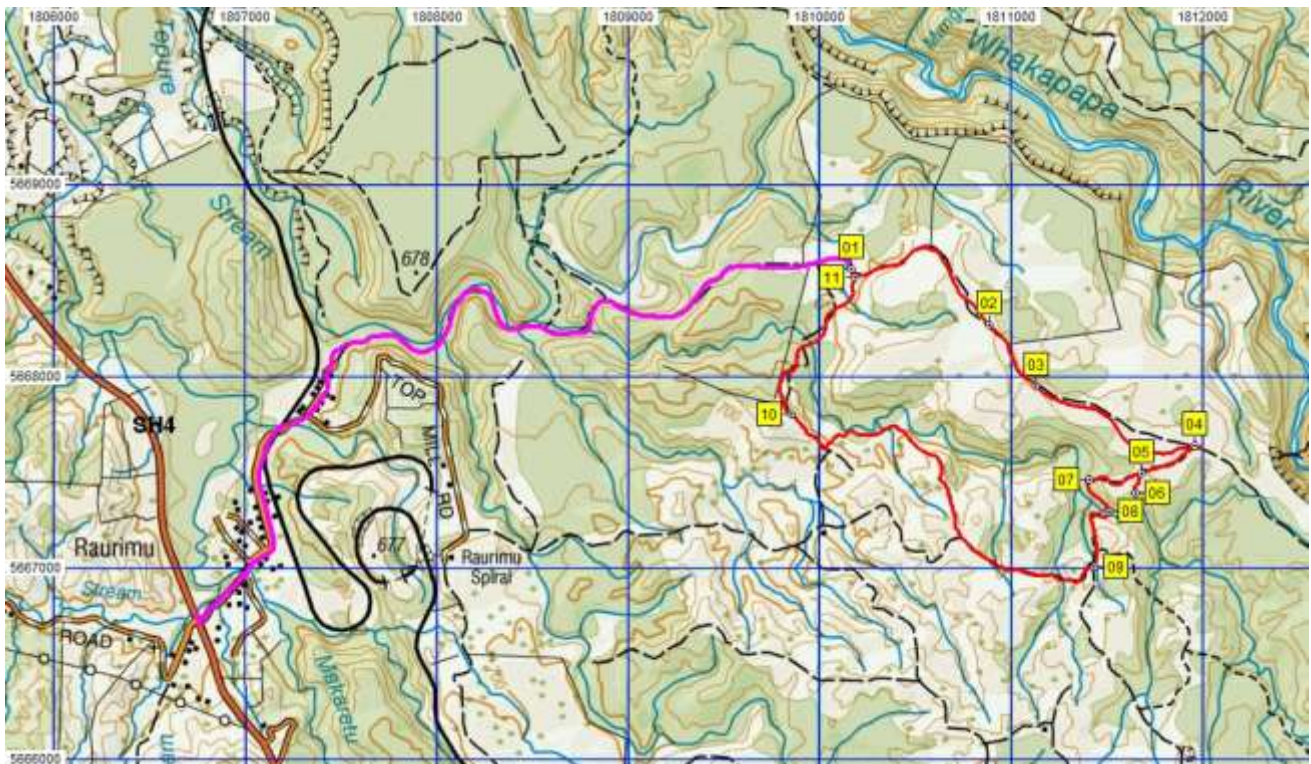
The return walk, as shown on the map, basically follows degraded farm track round the southern and SW boundary of the farm with a steep descent (**WP07731masl**) down a grassy track through a slightly eroded muddy approach to a stream crossing (**WP08725masl**) – the stream crossing can be tricky in wet conditions as it turns into a torrent. In total time of around 2 hours there is a fence junction with gates (**WP09741masl**) where a turn to the right is taken. From here there are a few slightly steep grassy slopes to be ascended and descended. A fairly good spot for lunch can be found with a few dead trees for seats quite close to the (deer) fence (**WP10734masl**) after which it can prove more direct to follow the fence line until the road is stumbled over again, but some of the slopes are quite steep. The end is nigh when a gate is reached (**WP11698masl**) allowing access to the actual access road only a few hundred metres from the woolshed.



Access road mauve and tramp line red

The start at the woolshed





N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1810165	5668562	697	Park at woolshed Raurimu Station, pass woolshed heading upslope on gravelly farm road
02	1810885	5668272	759	18min (1.01km); High point in paddock near farm gate
03	1811127	5667945	763	25min (1.45km); Through farm gate but same direction ESE/SE
04	1811959	5667638	773	43min (2.46km); Double farm gates with orange track marker near end of paddock, turn to WSW
05	1811676	5667494	762	1:15min (2.85km); Stile over fence and orange track marker
06	1811647	5667391	754	1:18min (2.97km); Kaikawaka Slab Hut
07	1811406	5667461	731	1:45min (3.61km); Steeply down grassy bank into eroded muddy section leading to stream
08	1811507	5667297	715	1:50min (3.85km); Stream crossing, then steeply upwards
09	1811429	5667003	741	2:00min (4.29km); Fence junction with gates, go right SW on farm track
10	1809851	5667799	734	3:12min (6.72km); Lower slope near deer fence - good lunch spot
11	1810182	5668517	698	3:27min (7.64km); Gate to road within few hundred metres of woolshed

Notes

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