

HOLDSWORTH JUMBO CIRCUIT

Topo50 Map: BP33 Featherstone & BP34 Masterton

GPS: NZTM and WGS 84

How to get to START: Starting point is Masterton. From the middle of town get on to SH2 heading SW, cross the river then right to Norfolk Road and over the railway. At Y-junction go left to Mount Holdsworth Road and go to the end and check at the Rangers House just before the locked gate to Holdsworth Lodge. The lodge has sleeping for over 20, gas cookers, electric lights, coal / wood burner and toilet block with flushing loos.

Rough description: A fairly hard 2 day circular tramp that can be shortened at several points with escape routes down off the high ridges. Day 1 can be up to the Powell Hut or extended to reach Jumbo Hut ascending Mount Holdsworth and Jumbo on the way. The descent via the Atiwhakatu Hut from Jumbo takes between 3 – 4 hours. Overall tramp distance is 23km with an altitude range increase of 1249 metres on Day 1 and 917 metres overall loss on Day 2. The route includes manicured tourist track to rather poorly poled routes on the narrow ridges between the Powell and Jumbo Huts.

Detail: From Holdsworth Lodge (**WP027** 304masl), where there are some very inquisitive Tom Tits, the manicured tourist track heads NW parallel to the river and within minutes a swing bridge is crossed then the track heads up hill as the Gentle Annie to arrive at the newly refurbished "lookout" (**WP31** 631masl) in about an hour. A few track junctions are then met but all are clearly labelled with the first target being the Mountain House shelter (**WP34** 735masl) which is gained in a bit over 2 hours.

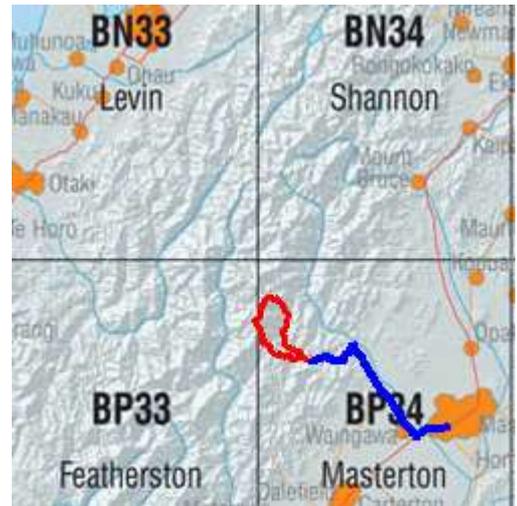
After this the quality of the track decreases as the slopes and difficulty increases whilst the track turns into a route rather than a highway for tourists. Within 3:30 minutes the slope eases and then a rocky protuberance (**WP36** 1117masl) offers great views before there is another grunt upwards. The Powell Hut (**WP037** 1213masl), very new and well appointed, is reached within 4 hours and makes a good lunch stop or overnight option if needed. From here onwards there is no real path but a poled route – though the poles are few and far between and there is a lot of ridge walking. Again, even in inclement conditions, there are numerous well sign-posted junctions as aids to location; the main one being at around 6 hours with left for the Holdsworth Trig (**WP40** 1476masl) and right to continue on to Jumbo. There are good views from the narrow ridge now being walked but good weather is required to have the views – otherwise it is navigate from sign-post to sign-post marking the various tracks and tops. An important spot not to be missed is the sign (**WP43** 1398masl) indicating Angle Knob off left and Jumbo Hut down right – care is required around here as there are some very steep drop offs from the track. Jumbo Hut (**WP45** 1217masl) is reached in about 45 minutes from this sign.

New and Old Atiwhakatu Huts



From Jumbo Hut the normal route out is now the Raingauge Spur Track though there is an older path (difficult to find) or one can go back over the tops and down the East Holdsworth Track. Five minutes below the hut the bush line is reached and for the next two hours it is a case of slowly descend the steep slopes keeping an eye out for the few orange track markers that exist and the many roots waiting to cause trip-ups. Meet the Atiwhakatu Track (**WP50** 471masl) and go right a few metres to where a new hut (**WP51** 468masl) was under construction in April 2009.

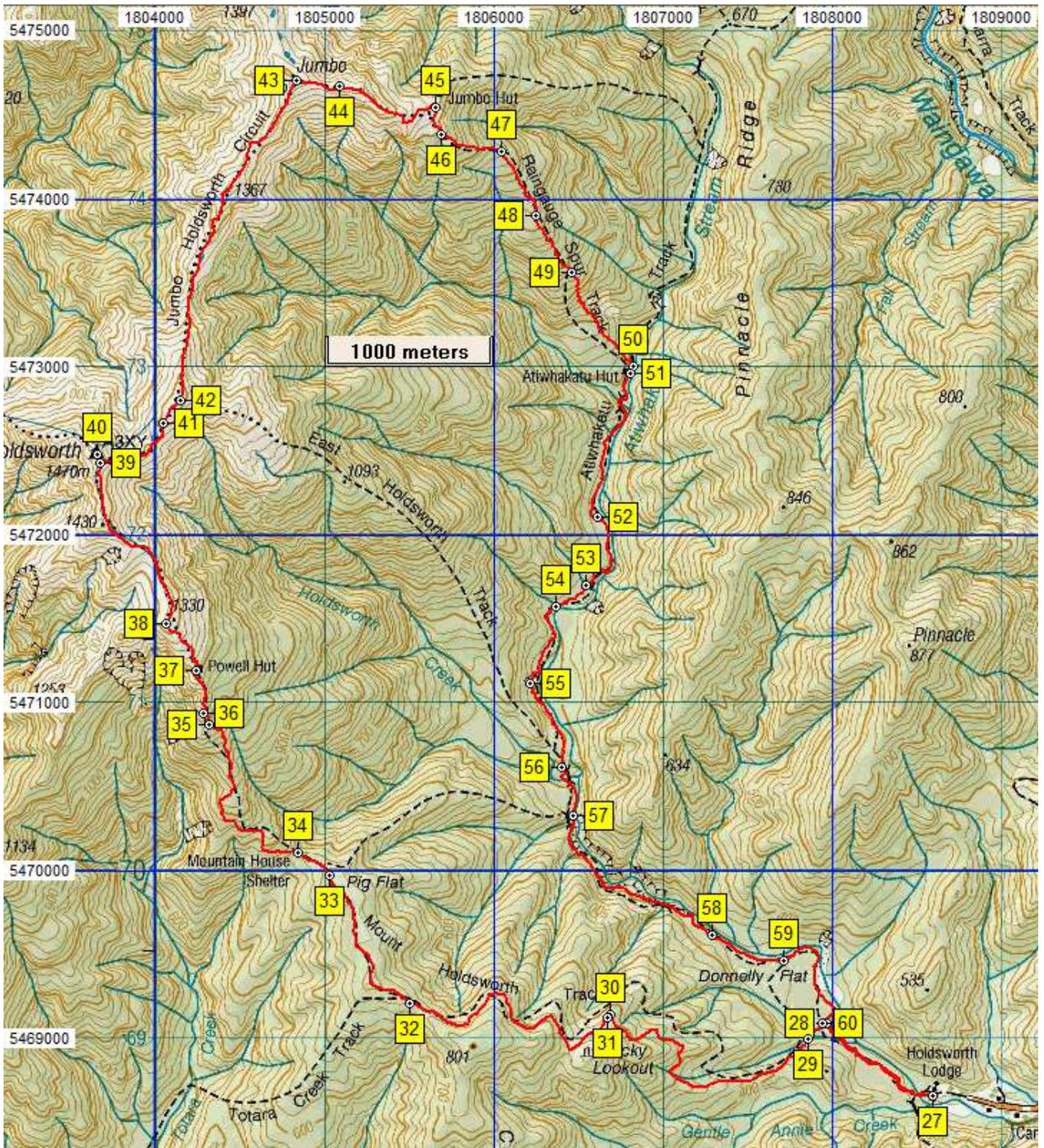
From here onwards the path is well marked and the quality of it improves from back-country track to tourist grade walking. There are a great number of side streams coming in from the right (SW) and some of these are badly scoured out indicating very high flow rates and water levels at times. Many bridges are crossed with one of them an all metal construction, including a tubular handrail (**WP54** 417masl) and a semi-stabilised landslip area is crossed (**WP55** 424masl). After that several tracks join from upslope on the right including the East Holdsworth (**WP56** 403masl), Mountain Shelter (**WP57** 383masl) then a long section of boardwalk winds its way through some wet forest and soon after the Loop Track is passed the main junction with the Gentle Annie Track is met (**WP28** 338masl) from where it is about 10 minutes back to Holdsworth Lodge.



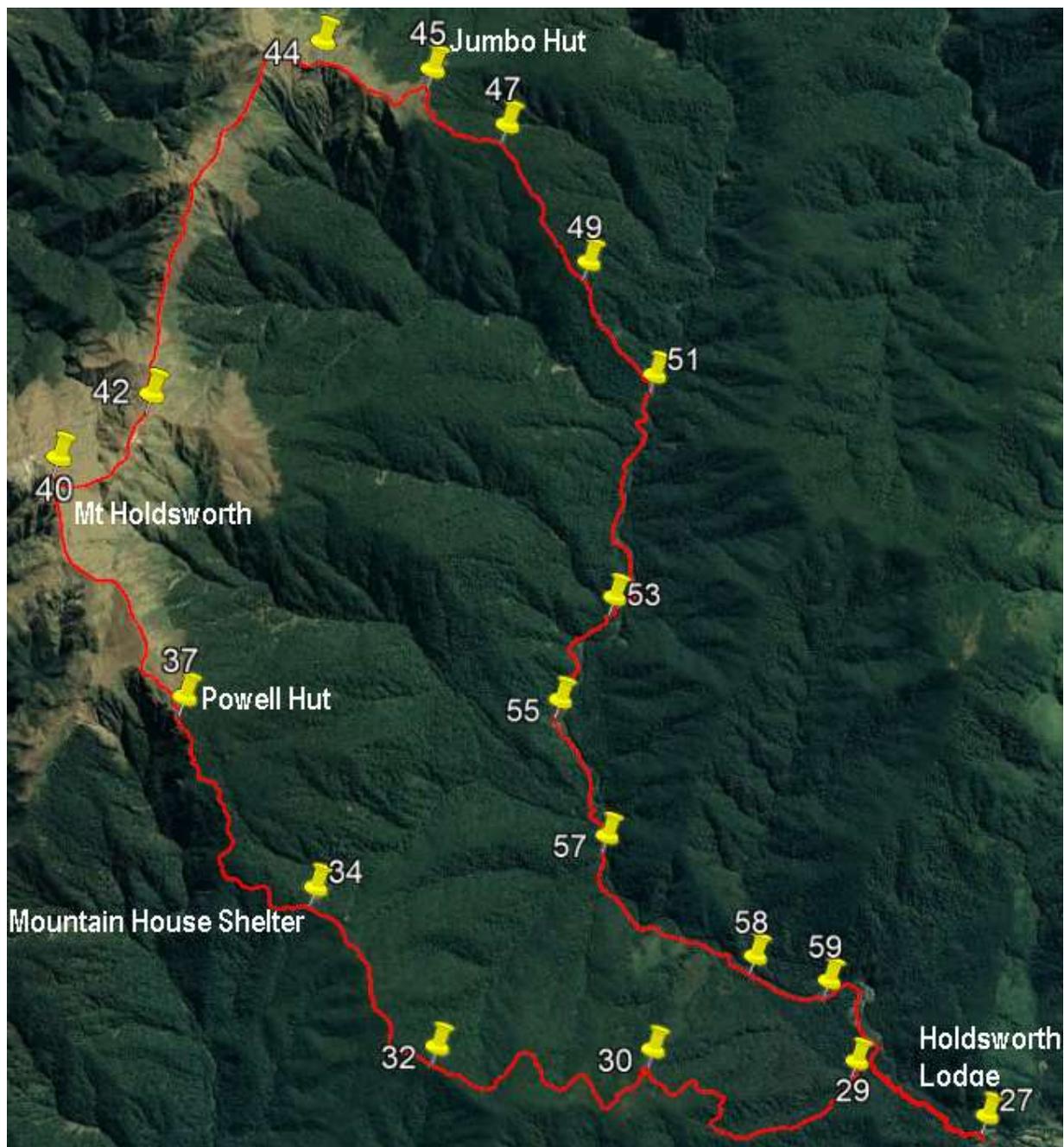
The location of the tramp can be seen above with the route walked shown as the RED line. The BLUE line is the access route to the start

Mount Holdsworth Trig

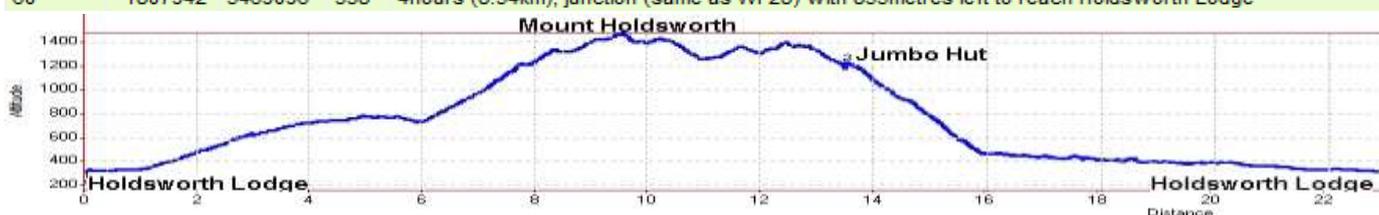




Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
27	1808595	5468661	304	Holdsworth Lodge. Head NW up tourist track to cross bridge and more super highway track
28	1807969	5469092	338	23min (0.94km); stay on main track going left on Gentle Annie route
29	1807854	5468999	342	28min (1.12km); T-Junct with Loop Track off to the right. Go uphill on newish track with many steps.
30	1806693	5469142	614	1:05min (2.89km); tree line after steep section with steps near crest and just before "lookout"
31	1806677	5469122	631	1:08min (2.94km); views back down valley from new "lookout" platform below rocky outcrop
32	1805500	5469216	753	1:50min (4.67km); Y-fork, go R. Gently undulating contour path in wet beech forest then boardwalk
33	1805032	5469971	761	2:10min (5.71km); Y-fork with right downhill to Atiwhakatu Valley and left for Mountain House
34	1804845	5470112	735	2:20min (6.03km); Mountain House shelter with bench, water tank, toilet & info. Track now steeper.
35	1804313	5470875	1088	3:30min (7.38km); on ridge with easy slope after steep, rooty route not a path
36	1804290	5470942	1117	3:35min (7.46km); open, rocky viewpoint then steeply upwards again
37	1804241	5471193	1213	3:50min (7.73km); Powell Hut great views, big deck, spacious, cooking gas, coal burner 20+ beds
38	1804069	5471470	1333	5:30min (8.33km); high ridge (running to SW) notice board then boggy, tussock grassland
39	1803679	5472433	1463	6:10min (9.51km); Y-fork with left for Holdsworth Trig and right for Jumbo
40	1803659	5472475	1476	6:20min (9.56km); Mount Holdsworth Trig then back to No39 and left down Jumbo track
41	1804050	5472666	1413	6:45min (10.12km); narrow ridge, poorly poled route in rolling to steep area. Huge earthworm!
42	1804146	5472802	1426	6:50min (10.3km); track junction, right for East Holdsworth Track (steep descent escape route)
43	1804835	5474707	1398	8hrs (12.48km); T-jct, L for Angle Knob 4km to NW and R for Jumbo Hut 30-40 minutes
44	1805089	5474672	1374	8:15min (12.76km); Jumbo crest, rough, exposed with huge drop-offs from narrow ridge track
45	1805655	5474548	1217	8:45min (13.49km); Jumbo Hut, 20 bunks, coal burner, sinks, roof-water tank and toilets. (OVERNIGHT)



Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
45	1805655	5474548	1217	8:45min (13.49km); Jumbo Hut, 20 bunks, coal burner, sinks, roof-water tank and toilets. (OVERNIGHT)
46	1805690	5474387	1188	5min (180m); steep down from Jumbo Hut to sign at tree line. Rough track, broken steps, mossy beech
47	1806039	5474283	1045	20min (578m); change east to south east on narrow rocky ridge with views
48	1806251	5473907	913	40min (1.05km); exit wet beech for more open woodland then beech forest - steep rough track
49	1806459	5473565	766	1hour (1.51km); mature native forest on steep, rooty rough track
50	1806829	5473001	471	1:45min (2.34km); bottom of steep descent at track junction on Atiwhakatu track, right for hut
51	1806810	5472962	468	Atiwhakatu hut - new hut being constructed April 2009. Wider benched track leads to swing bridge
52	1806611	5472109	441	2:05min (3.53km); steep drop off on LHS from river erosion. Board walk and shelf path, good forest
53	1806545	5471696	433	2:30min (4.12km); large swing bridge in area with undulating to rolling slopes
54	1806367	5471572	417	2:35min (4.41km); metal bridge then steep up eroded river bank edge. Many bridges, wild streams
55	1806219	5471116	424	2:55min (4.97km); large, semi-stabilised land-slip zone with track up and over
56	1806400	5470615	403	3:05min (5.60km); East Holdsworth track from the right then over all-metal swing bridge
57	1806464	5470331	383	3:15min (5.98km); T-junction with right uphill for Mountain House shelter
58	1807292	5469616	364	3:30min (7.34km); end of long snaking boardwalk in boggy area high above river
59	1807711	5469462	344	3:45min (7.87km); minor junction to Loop Track off right
60	1807942	5469096	338	4hours (8.54km); junction (same as WP28) with 855metres left to reach Holdsworth Lodge



Notes: • **GPS** Garmin GPSMap60 CSx **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit **masl** = metres above sea level