

## KINLOCH O2K TRACK

**Topo50 Maps:** BG35-Tihoi & BG36-Taupo

**GPS: NZTM on WGS84**

**How to get to START:** Exit Taupo Northwards on SH1 over the control gates bridge then left near the top of the hill to Poihipi Road

- left to Whangamata Road signposted to Kinloch
- left to Kinloch Road signposted to Kinloch
- follow signs to the lakefront
- park (**WP01** 363masl) in the carpark or on the domain opposite the shops near the public toilets close to the marina.

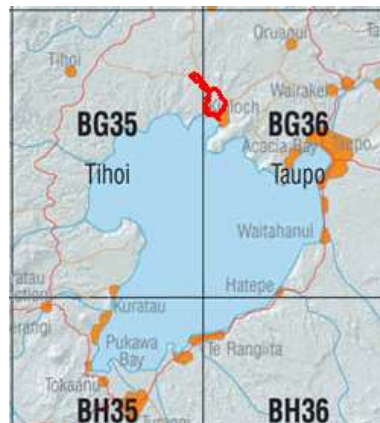
**Rough description:** A tramp that can be tackled in almost any weather conditions and that takes about three hours each way, with alternatives – see below. The track, which is an MTB so be wary, is fairly new though it can be dusty in dry weather and there are a few slopes which take a bit of an effort and require care. Good views over Lake Taupo can be had (**WP09** 459masl) and at present (Jan 2020) there is no toilet on the track.

**Detail:** From the car park (**WP01** 367masl) walk north west along the wide tourist grade track to Kawakawa Bay. At 2.5km branch off to the right on the new O2K MTB track.

In 2020 it was early days on this track so there was only very basic signage as on the right, the information and options are:

- the track is open
- on reaching Kawakawa Road go right to meet Whangamata Road
- the best option for walkers is for pick-up transport to wait on Kawakawa Road, this will give you a walk of about 12km
- on reaching Whangamata Road if you are on a bike, running or a super-fit walker go left to then return to Kinloch via Kawakawa Bay on the MTB track – an outing of 30 odd kilometres
- If you are reasonable walker and can handle traffic turn right on Whangamata road and after 6 and a half kilometres pick-up the Whangamata Track on the right back to the lakeshore – a total walk of just over 22km

This is a fairly honest walk on well-made track which is fairly steep in places with many sections of switchbacks so there is a lot of “upping and downing”. In the summer time the track can be very dusty and be prepared to get feet and legs well covered in fine sand and clay dust. No water sources were seen on the walk so it is essential to carry sufficient – on the day of the outing a flask of coffee plus a full water bottle were emptied.



RED line is tramp



Good track



View over Kinloch

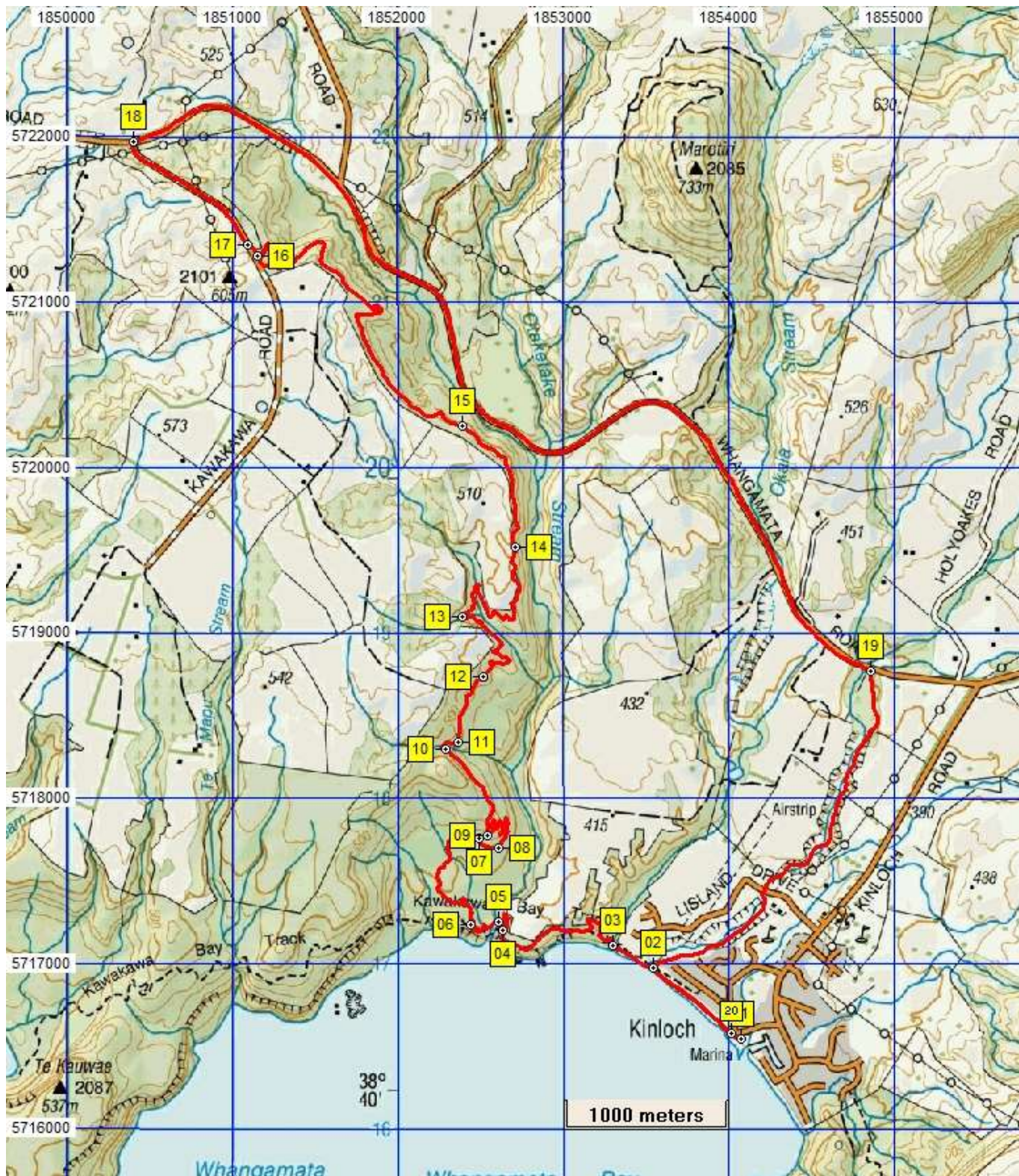


Over-looking Lake Taupo

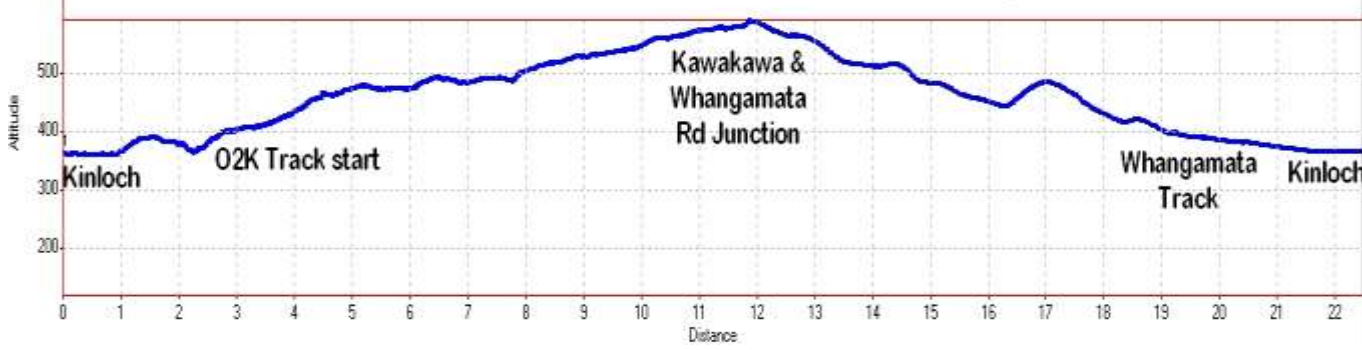


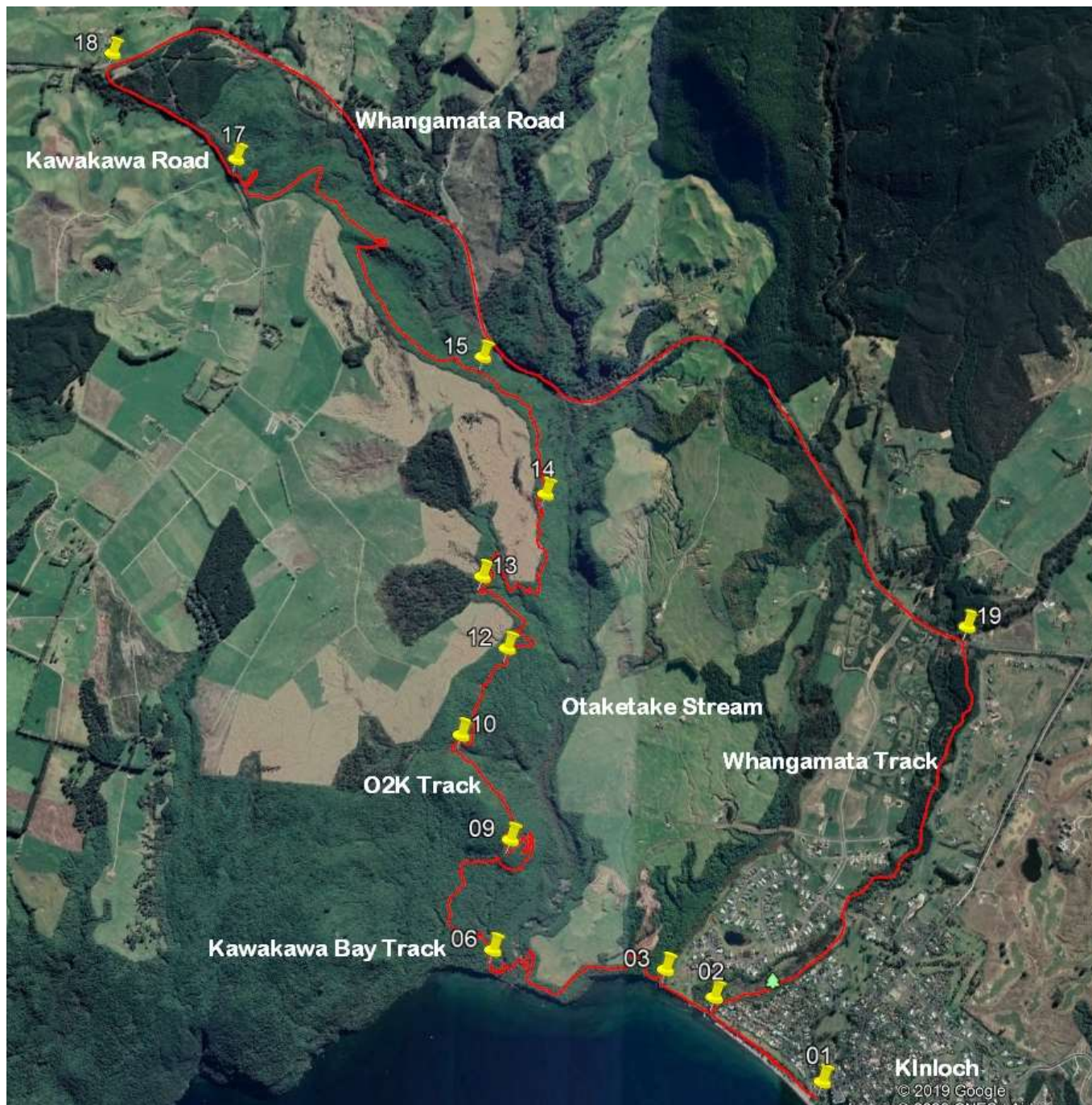
Happy cows





Distance: 22.4km Time: 6hours 40min Ascent: GPS 487m / Map 372m





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1854068	5716546	363	Car park Kinloch lakeshore
02	1853538	5716968	362	10min (680m); junction to Whangamata Track
03	1853297	5717110	362	14min (950m); W2K track move away from lakeshore uphill
04	1852632	5717207	378	30min (1.96km); seat for the weary
05	1852609	5717254	365	35min (2.26km); bridge
06	1852439	5717234	388	42min (2.59km); branch right off Kawakawa Bay track to O2K (Otaketake) track
07	1852485	5717762	418	1:04min (3.61km); small valley on RHS / East side
08	1852607	5717704	424	1:08min (3.77km); views over Kinloch then ascending on zigzags
09	1852537	5717773	459	1:30min (4.47km); rocky open area with views over Lake Taupo
10	1852292	5718299	479	1:46min (5.15km); two way traffic sign then steep sided stream line
11	1852364	5718333	478	1:49min (5.31km); more open with farm views on RHS / East side
12	1852517	5718731	475	1:57min (5.78km); zigzags down round valley head of stream line
13	1852395	5719099	490	2:13min (6.59km); wooden bridge
14	1852709	5719522	492	2:32min (7.81km); fenced edge on zigzags upwards
15	1852387	5720252	527	2:49min (8.81km); high up overlooking Whangamata Road
16	1851158	5721279	581	3:30min (11.4km); bike barriers and gate
17	1851095	5721347	580	3:32min (11.5km); meet Kawakawa Road, go right
18	1850404	5721971	566	4:09min (12.58km); meet Whangamata Road, go right
19	1854858	5718776	398	5:44min (19.17km); enter forest on RHS on Whangamata Track
20	1854014	5716579	365	6:40min (22.42km); Kinloch shore below shops

**Notes:** • GPS Garmin GPSMap62s / 62sc WP = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit masl = metres above sea level Compiled Jan 2020