

PUREORA via RED SHED to Link Road

Topo50 Map: BF34 Benneydale, BF35 Whakamaru & BG35 Tihoi

How to get to START: Exit Taupo northwards on **SH1** and turn off at the top of Control Gates Hill left to Poihipi Road. There are two routes with one being shorter but on gravel and both take the same length of time.

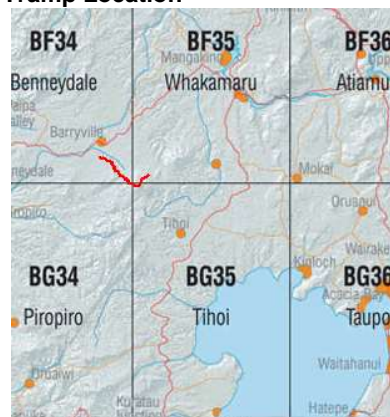
The clean route is to follow Poihipi to the end, turn right on SH32 to Whakamaru then left on SH30 towards Mangakino then left again heading for Benneydale. At about one hour (70km) turn left at Barryville into Pureora Forest Park heading for the DOC Centre. All is well signposted.

The dusty route is on Poihipi past Wairakei Forest then left to **Whangamata Road** for **Kinloch**. Do not turn left at the next sign for Kinloch but go straight ahead to turn right at a T-junction on **SH32** (Western Bay Road) then left into **Kakaho Road** in 34 minutes and cross two bridges. The road becomes gravel (37 minutes) before passing signs for **Kakoha Recreation Area** then just stay on the main well surfaced gravel road. The car park for the **Link Track** is passed at 57 minutes and ten kilometres further on reach the **DoC Centre** area at Pureora

Times are taken from the Police Station in Taupo.

NZTM GPS: NZTM on WGS84

Tramp Location



Rough Description: The Timber Trail starts from near the DoC Centre in the Pureora Forest Park and heads south eastwards to meet up with the Toitōi Track ascending Mt Pureora. This tramp links the Timber Trail with the Toitōi Track to get up Pureora then descend via the Link Track to Link Road. **NB** That the DoC Centre was destroyed by fire in mid-2017 – no rebuild date known.

Tramp Briefing



Icons



Detail: The start of the trail (**WP01576masl**) is easy to find and updated information is willingly supplied by the staff in the DoC Information Centre, the trail open and is heavily used by walkers, runners and bikers and makes getting to the Toi Toi track easy. From the start it is level walking on a wide, meandering track in magnificent forest and is usually cool if not cold - but remember that this is actually a bike trail so be very wary at all times. After 25 minutes or so there is the first of several wide, wooden bridges to cross (**WP02589masl**). In less than an hour or 3km (**WP03602masl**) there is a junction sign-posted north leading to an old crawler tractor 5 min down the track – it is worthwhile looking at this 1928 bit of kit. The second wooden bridge lies at 3.7km (**WP04612masl**) and a minute later (**WP05616masl**) the road which heads NE to a quarry is crossed. Fifteen minutes later a bigger road (**WP06635masl**) is met where the trail goes left then after 50m goes off right, 10 min later bridges 3 and 4 are crossed.

Cabbage Tree Rd crossing



After 1:47min and 8km Cabbage Tree Road (**WP09684masl**) is met and crossed, there is also a sign indicating the Maraeroa Cycle Way going right on Cabbage Tree Road. On crossing Cabbage Tree Rd the slopes do increase a fraction as some altitude is gained. In 2 hours or so another road (**WP09722masl**) is crossed and it used to be possible to see the Red Shed on the edge of the tree line upslope to the SE on the right. The trail winds up the now-noticeable slope crossing another two bridges en-route. Within about two and a quarter hours (8.3km) the Red Shed (**WP11780masl**) is reached and this can make an excellent rest spot as there is shelter if the weather is inclement and there are very good views to the west.

Heading to the Red Shed



Active Forestry

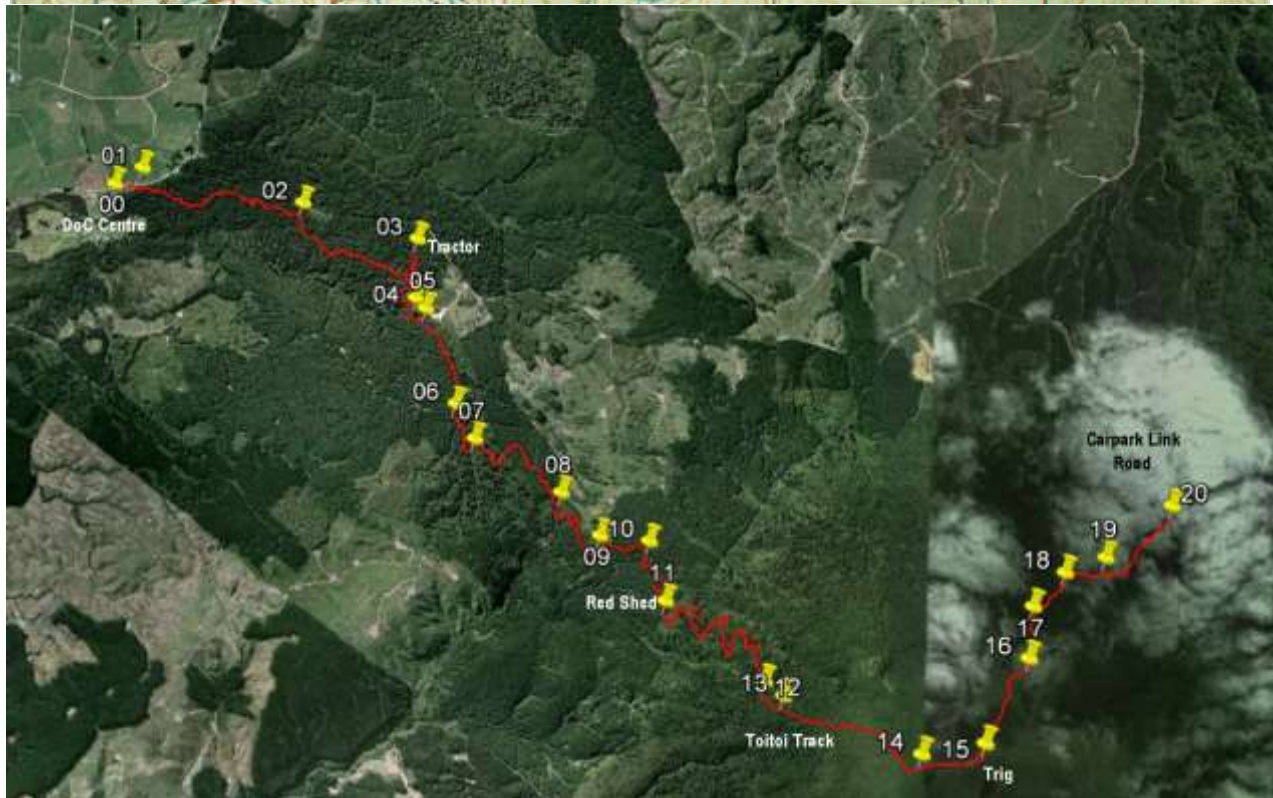
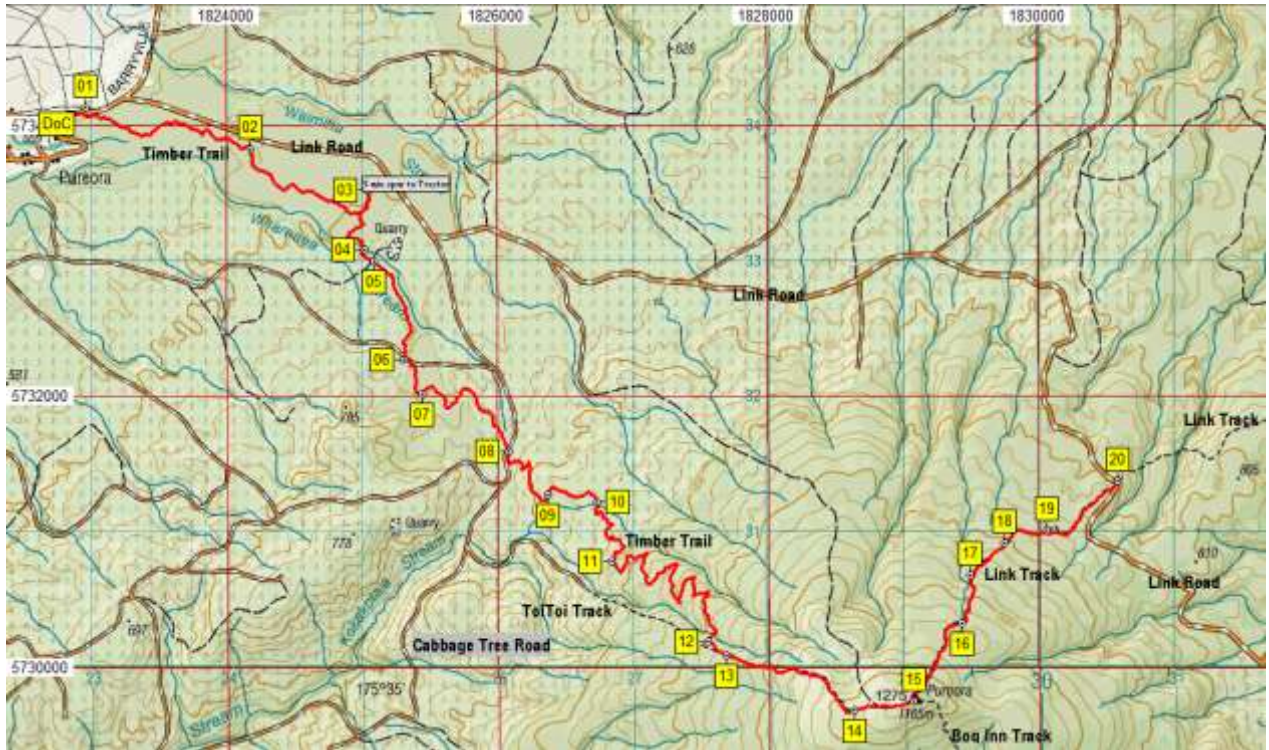


Info boards abound



Timber Trail meets ToiToi





Wide wooden bridges



The track continues up the left side of the Red Shed and it is back into the bush. Like in other places there are good information boards on this section as it wiggles its way uphill to the SE. There are a few minor slopes and a few slippery bits due to ground-water oozing out but overall it is very easy going – even on a bike. The wiggles more or less stop at **WP12924masl** then there is a left turn uphill on to the Toitoi Track as it crosses the Timber Trail (**WP13960masl**). There is now a distinct change as the track is virtually not maintained so some care has to be taken on this back-country track.

Red Shed



Na...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
00	1822752	5734015		Pureora DOC Centre
01	1822968	5734132	576	Start of Timber Trail 350m east of DOC Centre
02	1824184	5733825	589	25min 1.6km; wooden bridge
03	1825045	5733524	602	58min 3km; five minute spur to the north to old tractor picnic site
04	1825023	5733080	612	1:09min 3.7km; second wooden bridge then sharp bend in track
05	1825096	5732999	616	1:10min 3.8km; cross roads with old track - N is to quarry
06	1825307	5732277	635	1:25min 4.7km; go left on metalled road then off right back on Timber Trail
07	1825444	5732013	642	1:31min 5.1km; third wooden bridge with a fourth bridge five min later
08	1826084	5731595	684	1:47min 6.3km; cross Cabbage Tree Road which is marked as Maraeroa Cycle Way to right
09	1826366	5731268	722	1:59min 7.1km; road crossing with Red Shed visible on tree line to the right *()
10	1826731	5731219	736	2:05min 7.5km; two wooden bridges close together on ascent up to Red Shed
11	1826839	5730778	780	2:16min 8.3km; Red Shed (shelter) with massive views to west. Into bush and uphill on cycleway
12	1827541	5730193	924	2:52min 10.6km; change from due S to SE after zigzagging uphill section above Red Shed
13	1827675	5730092	960	3:01min 10.8km; Junction of Timber Trail and Toitoti Track. Left uphill
14	1828627	5729682	1124	3:28min 11.9km; Toitoti track with board boardwalk & steps on almost level area
15	1829066	5729756	1182	3:36min 12.4km; trig point on Pureora
16	1829428	5730322	1005	4:23min 13.3km; section of older boardwalk on very fast descent
17	1829487	5730683	949	4:29min 13.7km; steps on boardwalk
18	1829742	5730914	901	4:35min 14.1km; good boardwalk in Beech forest on what used to be muddy area
19	1830053	5731011	855	4:41min 14.4km; fast boardwalk on more gentle slopes approaching Link Road
20	1830576	5731370	803	4:51min 15.1km; car park on Link Road

There is a sign advising that the Pureora Trig is only 50 minutes uphill, in fact it takes less than 40minutes. The delights of the old track are very apparent with sufficient mud and eroded parts to keep all very happy. Old boardwalk is hit after another 30minutes (WP14^{1124masl}), the bush begins to thin and soon the actual trig (WP15^{1182masl}) can be seen on the horizon and was arrived at after a total time of 3:36min (12.4km). There is a communications mast on the summit powered by PV panels and clear signs indicating the way down. There is also a track heading to the E which then turns to the SE and this goes to Bog Inn. The Link Track is used to exit the area and this goes off to the NE. The expected testing descent down the Link Track to meet Link Road no longer exists and the extensive steps and boardwalk make it a very rapid exit which can be completed within 45 minutes to arrive at the car park (WP20^{803masl}) in just on 5 hours and after 15km distance.

The tractor

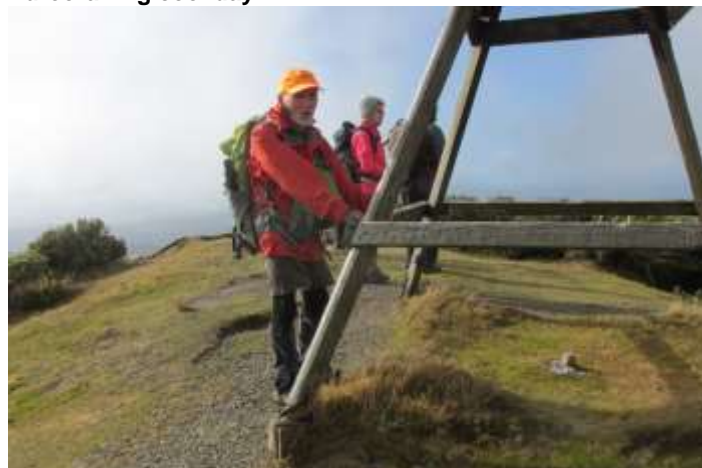


Regroup at the Red Shed

Lunch at the top warm day



Pureora Trig cool day



Notes:

- **GPS:** (Garmin GPSMap 60CSx
- **WP** = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl** = metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS units)

Updated May 2019