

Taradale Puketapu Loop

Topo50 Map: BK39 Hastings

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

How to get to START:

- Exit Taupo on **SH5** for Napier
- Once at Napier head S to use SH2B
- At roundabout follow SH50 to the S and SW
- Go right on Meeanee Road then
- Left on Gloucester Rd to the EIT building and park left side of the road behind the building. The bund can be seen from the car park as a high bank.

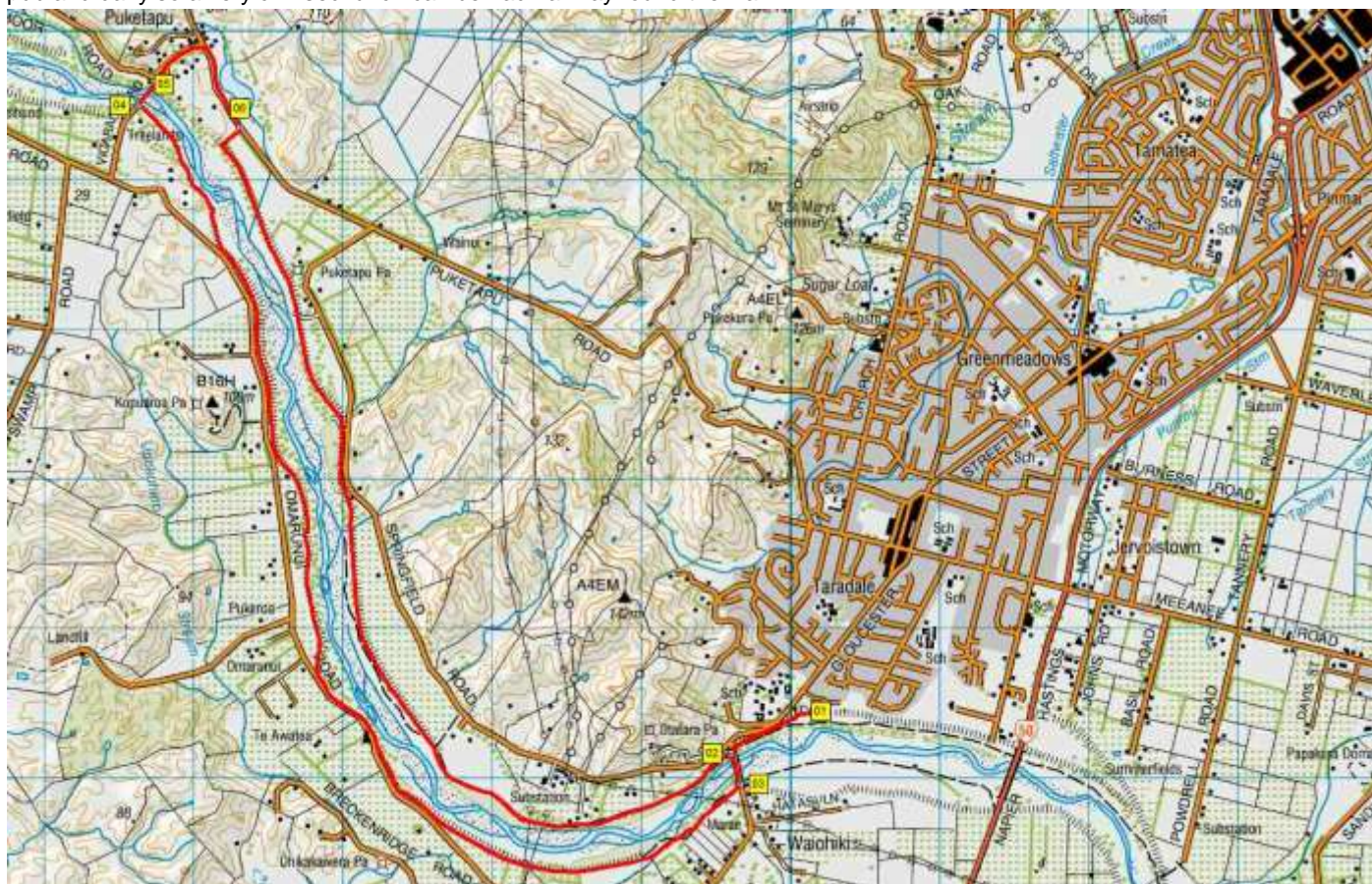
Rough description: A long drive of just short of 150km to the start but possible in about 2:30minutes with a couple of things to bear in mind:

- In winter months the road can be icy and foggy / misty on the way down
- On the way back up from Napier the sun can be a problem for driving

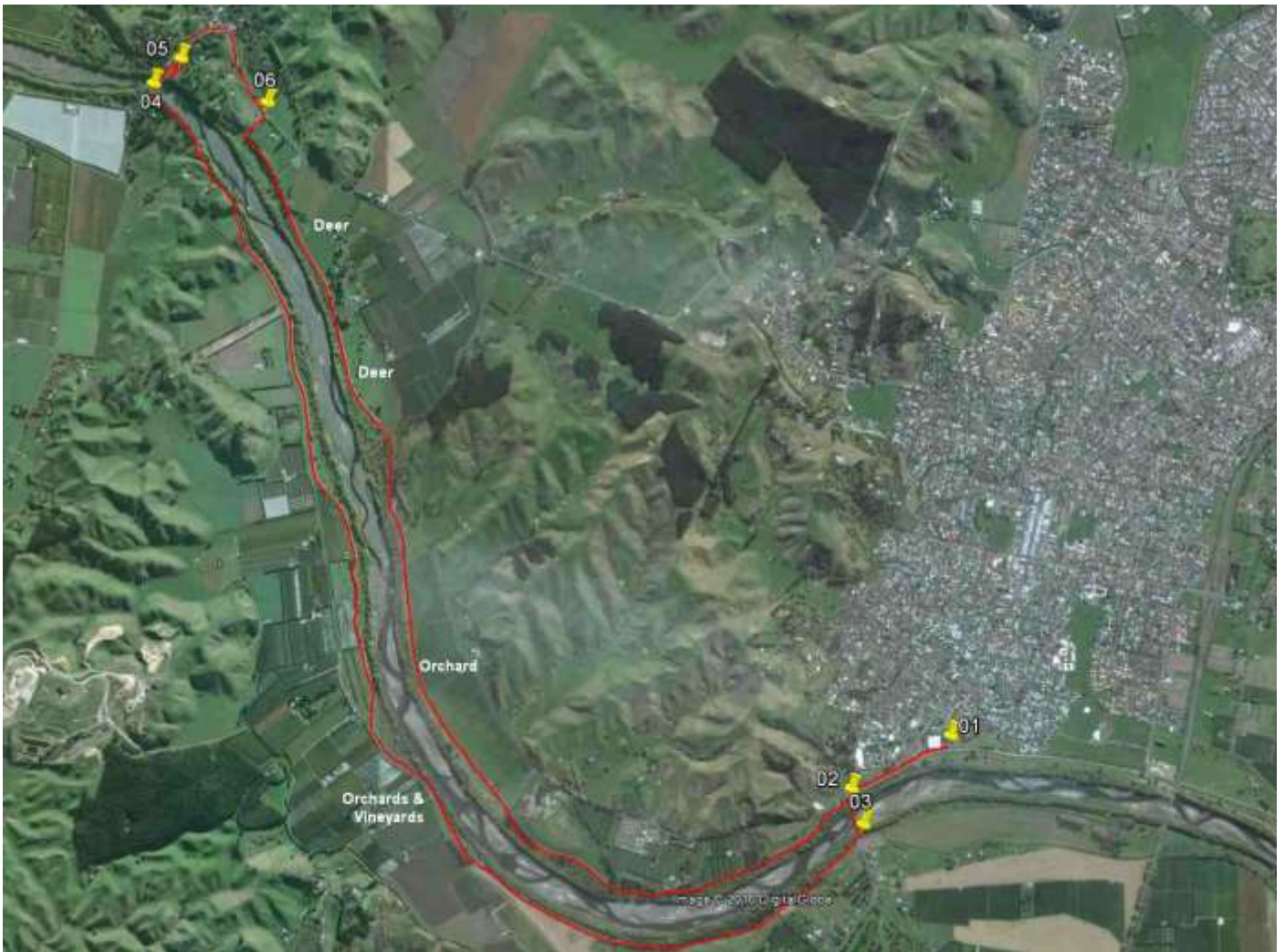
This is a walk not a tramp as it is all on very well formed, virtually level bike track basically covering 18km if the full loop is done. Boots are not required. The outing can be shortened by doing an out and back on either bank – turning back when tired. Progress is quite fast with an average time of around 4 – 5 hours being adequate for most walkers.

There is nothing exciting to be seen but the bunds or banks bordering the river are impressive, the tracks are on top of the bunds.

Basically the route followed was the right bank of the Tutaekari River outwards and the true left bank on the return. The river course is quite wide and very gravelly but the river must run very high at times as evidenced by the depths of drainage channels and the height of the bunds. The outing is bordered by orchards and vineyards plus a deer farm plus some very impressive houses. At the turnaround point in Puketapu there is a very attractive old church to be seen with a graveyard well worth a wander round. On the day in question the trip leader revealed that she had in fact been married in this church St Michael and All Angels. There is also a pub and dairy so a very civilised lunch can be had halfway round the walk.



N...	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
01	1930201	5615454	6.0	Car park at EIT
02	1929604	5615174	7.0	750m (11mins); Head SSE over road bridge
03	1929664	5614965	5.0	1km (14min); Follow bike track looping under road bridge
04	1925631	5619508	32.0	8.77km (2:01min); Turn right over bridge on meeting road
05	1925799	5619651	40.0	Wander round graveyard and church
06	1926307	5619383	20.0	10.25km (3:01min); Right off Puketapu Road following obvious bike track and signs



Notes:

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