

WAIKATO RIVER TRAIL – Whakamaru to Mangakino

Topo50 Map: BF35 Whakamaru

GPS: NZTM on WGS84

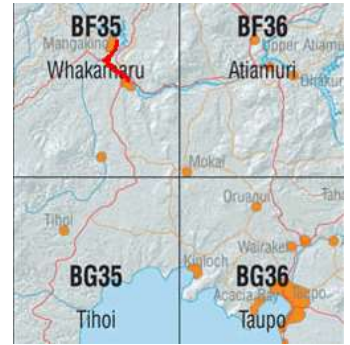
How to get to START: Exit Taupo northwards on SH1 and turn off at the top of Control Gates Hill left to Poihipi Road:

- follow Poihipi to the end
- turn right on SH32 to Whakamaru
- at the T-junction to SH30 in Whakamaru turn right
- take first road on left for a couple of hundred metres
- track barriers indicate track start at bend on the LHS (**WP01**^{231masl})

Time taken from Taupo Police Station is just under one hour and the tramp line shows in red on sheet BF35 on the right.

Rough Description: A straightforward A to B walk of 11km easily done within 3 hours on good quality forest roads and tracks which now comprise part of the Waikato River MTB Trail. Some very good views of the Waikato River and hydro-dam lakes.

Detail: The first half of the track heads SW along the border between farmland and the steep, bluff slopes of the Waikato River and is virtually level walking from **WP0**^{1231masl} to **WP02**^{217masl} on good smooth track. During the lambing season it is very active with frolicking lambs plus slow moving “mothers in waiting”. There are even a few sections of “fur lined” fencing where the sheep have been rubbing on the wire.



After 20min or so a huge rock (**WP02**^{217masl}) is seen on the left then the tracks heads downhill (**WP03**^{211masl}) for a bit towards the river and a pretty scenic spot is reached in the trees where there is a picnic table and seat (**WP04**^{200masl}) – perfect for smoko!



After this the slopes do get a bit steeper and some gravel does exist on the track, no problem for walking but can be tricky for inexperienced bikers and soon the lowest point of the walk so far is reached on crossing a bridge (**WP06**^{197masl}). Within an hour and a half and after a short uphill there is again some level going then a farm road is crossed (**WP08**^{214masl}) and soon there is a seat (**WP09**^{220masl}) with good river views.

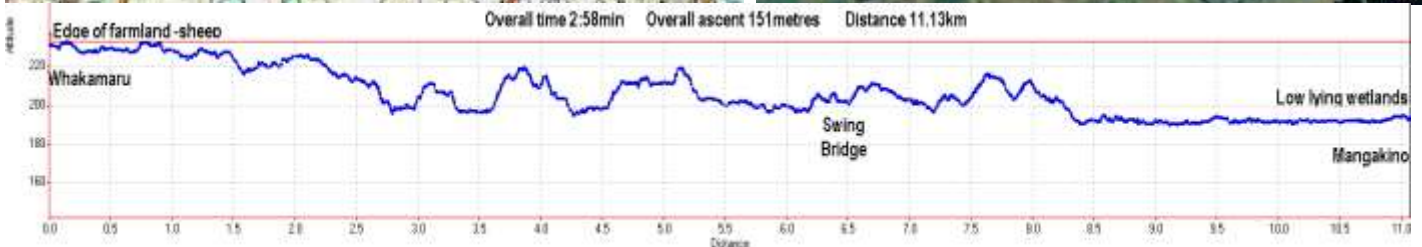
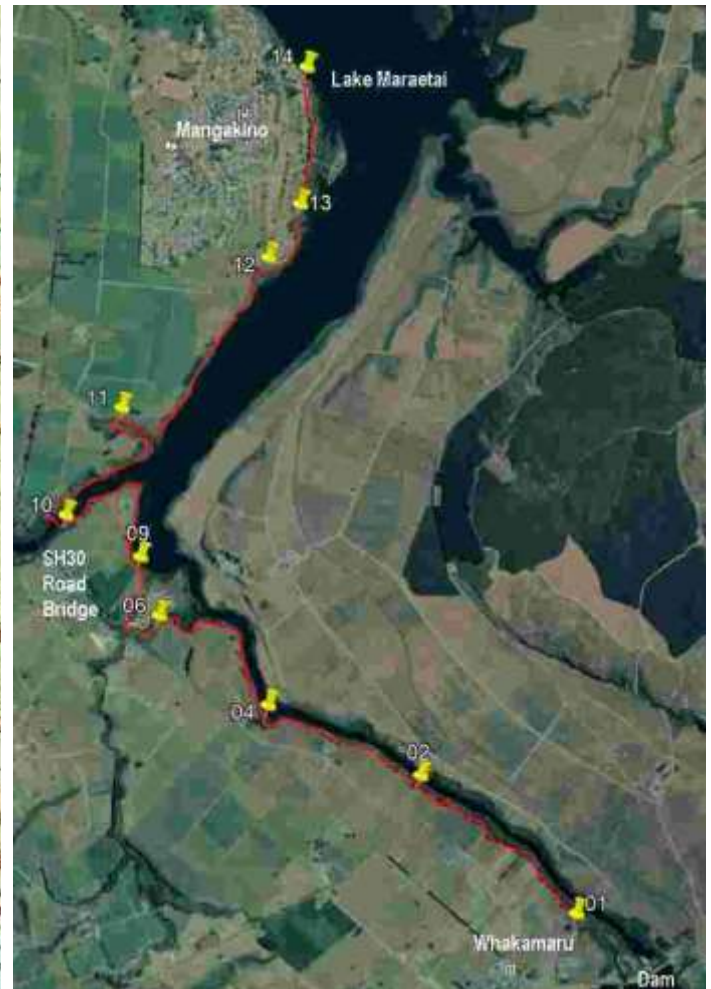
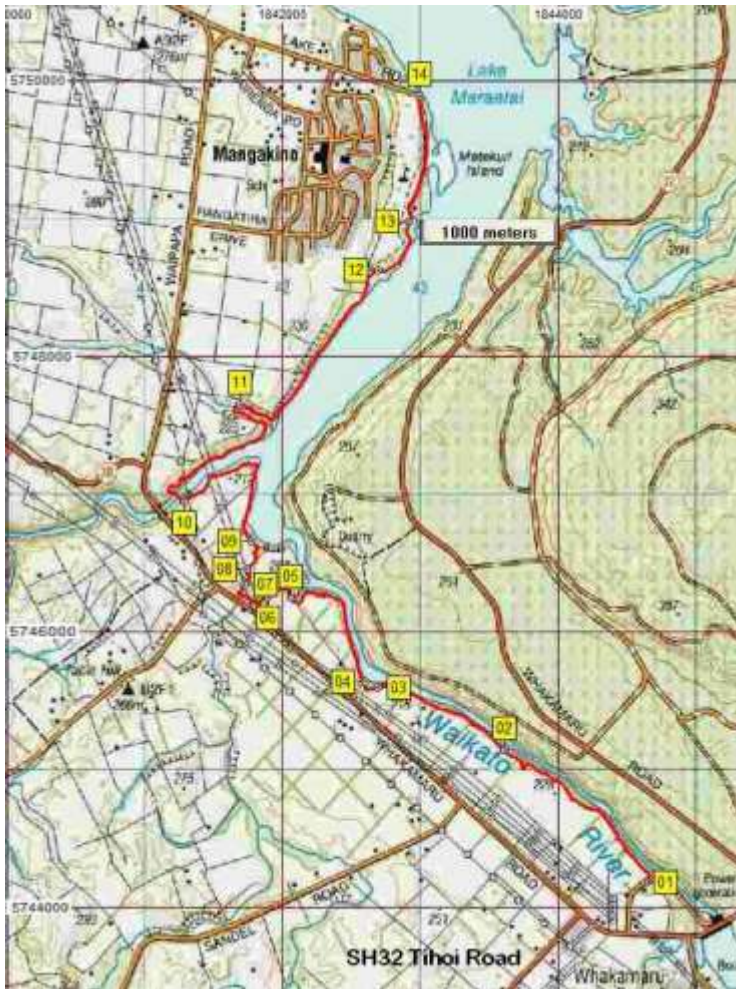


Just short of two hours offers one of the sights of the day with picnic table overlooking a large swing bridge (**WP10**^{205masl}), from the bridge the river and a road bridge can be seen; from the swing bridge it is just less than 5km to the end of the track.



There is a bit of an ascent after the bridge then there is a bit of a switch-back around a huge rock in the middle of a streamline (**WP11**^{209masl}). After this there are no slopes of note at all and the low-lying track soon uses a section of boardwalk (**WP12**^{191masl}) before coming out to open grassland on the edge of the golf course. From around here there are choices of boardwalk, road or grass to the carpark at the end of Lake Road (**WP14**^{193masl}).





Name	Easting	Northing	Alt...	Description
01	1844622	5744183	231	Drop off point at bike barrier on to River Trail Track. Level smooth track on farm edge
02	1843607	5745136	217	1.59km (23min); big rock on left then drop down towards the river
03	1842685	5745599	211	2.64km (37min); steeper slopes and downhill
04	1842595	5745635	200	2.81km (40min); scenic with picnic bench - smoko
05	1842054	5746245	214	4.04km (1:13min); steeper slopes and gravelly
06	1841886	5746254	197	4.33km (1:17min); Bridge
07	1841716	5746345	212	4.72km (1:25min); uphill then +/- level going
08	1841736	5746459	214	4.84km (1:27min); farm road crossing with bike barriers either side
09	1841771	5746654	220	5.16km (1:33min); seat with good river view
10	1841284	5746945	205	6.39km (1:50min) picnic table with great view of swing bridge
11	1841685	5747650	209	7.93km (2:13min); switch-back in small valley with huge rock in the middle
12	1842689	5748629	191	9.60km (2:37min); section of boardwalk in swampy area
13	1842910	5748978	191	10.13km (2:44min); end of track onto grassy area on edge of golf course
14	1842985	5749894	193	11.08km (2:58min); car park at end of Lake Road, Mangakino

Notes:

- **GPS:** Garmin GPSMap 66sc
- **WP =** Waypoint as taken by GPS unit
- **masl =** metres above sea level (as recorded by GPS units)

Compiled 29 August 2019