

Eastern Hutt Hut, Tararua Forest Park

A day trip to Eastern Hutt Hut is perfect for those occasions when the Tararua tops are clagged in. But because the tramp involves river travel, it's enjoyable on a hot day, too.

Eastern Hutt Hut (marked only as 'hut' on the map), lies in the Eastern Hutt River and is for emergency use only because it is in a water catchment area, the idea being that by only allowing day trippers the risk of water contamination is reduced.

It's best to park at the Kaitoke Waterworks Road end, but you may want to park just outside the gate, as it's closed at 8pm each day.

Start by following a 4WD track along some farmland up and over a large hill. The track makes what would be quite a grunt, a bit more of a graded ascent. Towards the end of the descent, a smaller track comes off the 4WD track and leads down to the Eastern Hutt River. Cross a swingbridge and then a grunt up and over a spur, at which point the marked track ends and the route simply follows the river. There are, however, sections of track on both sides of the river which can be walked at times.

Cross the river, which in times of heavy flow, can require linking up to cross safely. Then, it's pleasant and easy rock-hopping up the river.

After about four hours, a couple of pink markers lead to the hut. It pays to watch the terrain here, as it's not uncommon for people to completely miss the hut because it's located out of sight of the river. There is a distinctive spur that drops to the river from Marchant Ridge, a few hundred metres past the hut, which would be the way down from the ridge if you chose to come that way. Quoin Stream, which joins the Eastern Hutt River near the hut would provide access to or from Quoin Ridge.

The hut is unlocked and has six bunks, a small pot belly stove and a small red hut book (as the hut is managed by the Greater Wellington Regional Council rather than DOC).

The return trip via the same route takes about seven hours.

Wild file

Access From Kaitoke Waterworks Road end

Grade Moderate

Time Car Park to Eastern Hutt Hut, 4hr

Distance 8.84km to hut

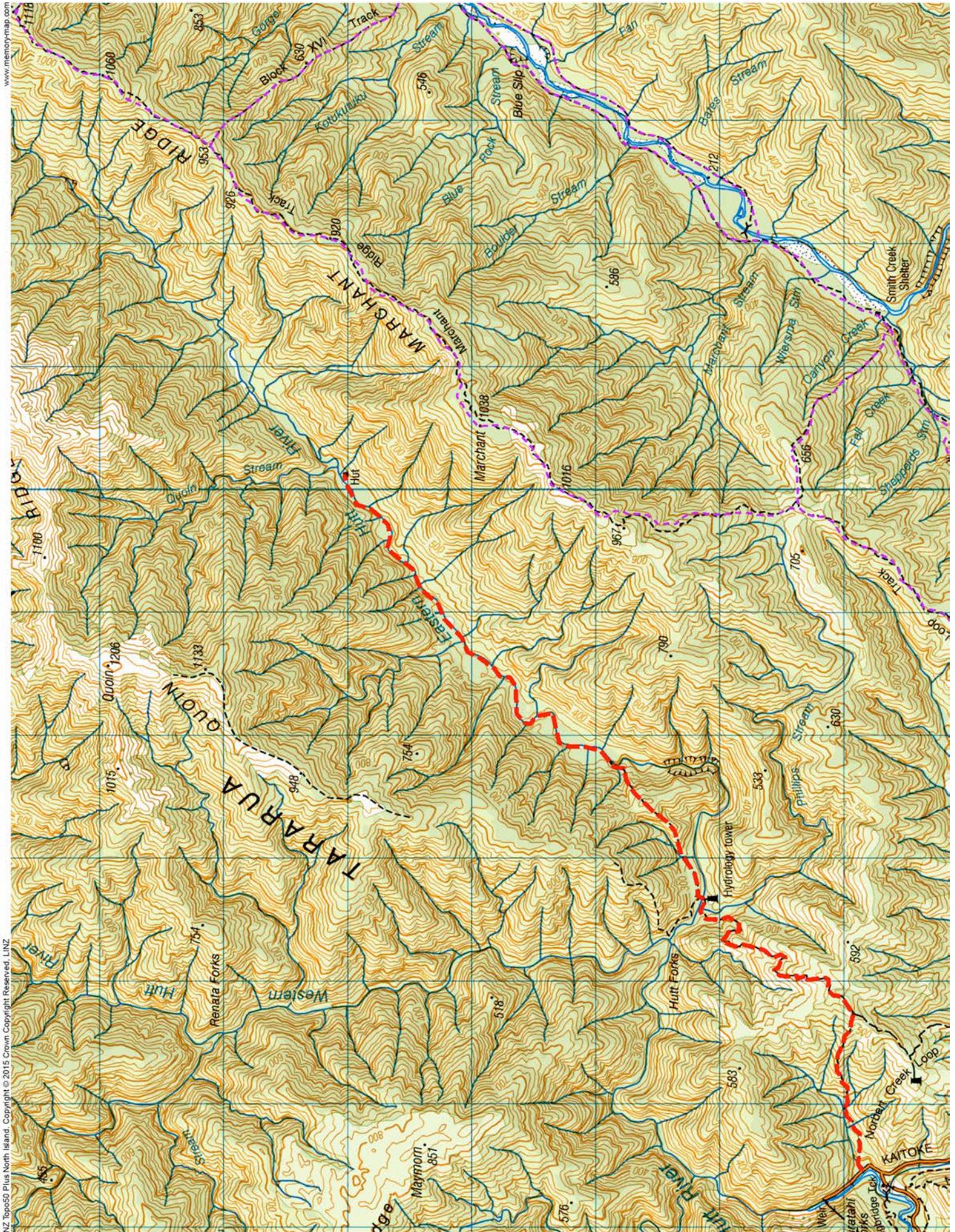
Total ascent 789m to hut

Map BP33

Elevation Profile



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