

Mt Somers, Hakatere Conservation Park

Head across Woolshed Creek Bridge and immediately tackle Rhyolite Ridge, as it climbs 400m in just over a kilometre. The track was once largely unformed and in a gully to the south, but now it's been made into a more permanent route.

At the junction with the South Face Track, take the left-hand fork and follow the track until you spot Woolshed Creek Hut sitting on flats beyond the narrow canyon of Woolshed Creek. There's a broad ridge to follow skywards and, although unmarked, it's just a case of picking the line of least resistance.

After another 400m upwards, the gradient eases slightly and the route follows the escarpment line that forms the southern ramparts of Mt Somers. Unlike most of the Canterbury foothills, Mt Somers is volcanic, which makes for some interesting geological features. At one point, a small basalt bluff appears to block the way, but an easy tussock ramp breaches its defences.

Then, there is a series of false summits until the distinctive structure which marks the real summit appears. The views are superb, with Mts Arrowsmith and D'Archiac prominent. Further west, the imposing bulk of Aoraki/Mt Cook can be viewed.

On the descent, be careful not to lose your way, especially to ensure you don't drift to the left and unwittingly meet the South Face Track to the south of the Rhyolite Ridge junction, as that would involve walking a long way in the wrong direction.

Wild file

Access From Jig Road. A steeper, marked track to the summit of Mt Somers can be accessed from Flynn's Road, to the east

Grade Moderate

Time 7hr return

Distance 7.33km to summit

Total ascent 1177m

Map BX19, BX20

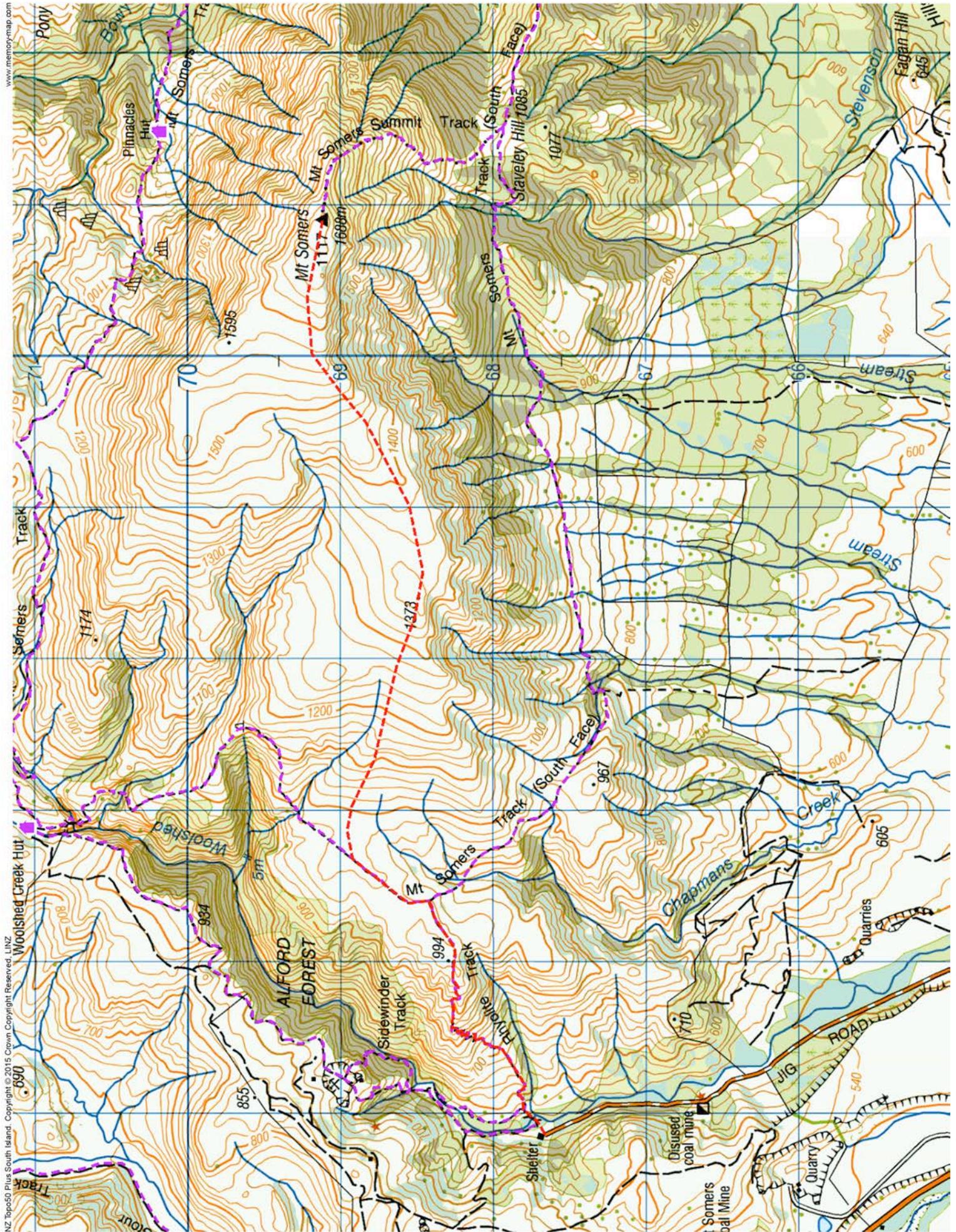
Elevation Profile



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Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software, version 6. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. The GPX file in these cases are a 'best guess' of the route only. Users should use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass to find the best possible route. Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts. Red or blue routes are those drawn by Wilderness.

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