

Kelly Knight Hut, Ruahine Forest Park

The western Ruahine Range offers some exceptional tramping country, including the Pourangaki River, which drains some of the park's highest mountains.

One of the area's most accessible huts is Kelly Knight, reached on a good track. You see the eight-bunk hut well before you reach it; a white-walled haven perched on a pleasant terrace above the Pourangaki River. The hut is named after a local hunter and is popular with deerstalkers, especially during the autumn when the stags roar.

The route starts on a track through private farmland and leads to the Ruahine Forest Park boundary, where a benched trail to the hut begins through the bush.

Other routes include a high-level traverse past Purity Hut, over Wooden Peg, and down a steep track into the Pourangaki Valley. From Kelly Knight Hut there's also a track that climbs steeply onto the northern end of the Whanahuia Range or a river-route upstream to Pourangaki Hut.

Wild File

Access Mangakukeke Road end. Permission required to cross Kohunui Station (P: 06 382 5577) well in advance. No access during the spring calving season. A large slip on the track, near the Wooden Peg track junction, can be avoided using a detour route.

Grade Easy-moderate

Time 3.5-4hr

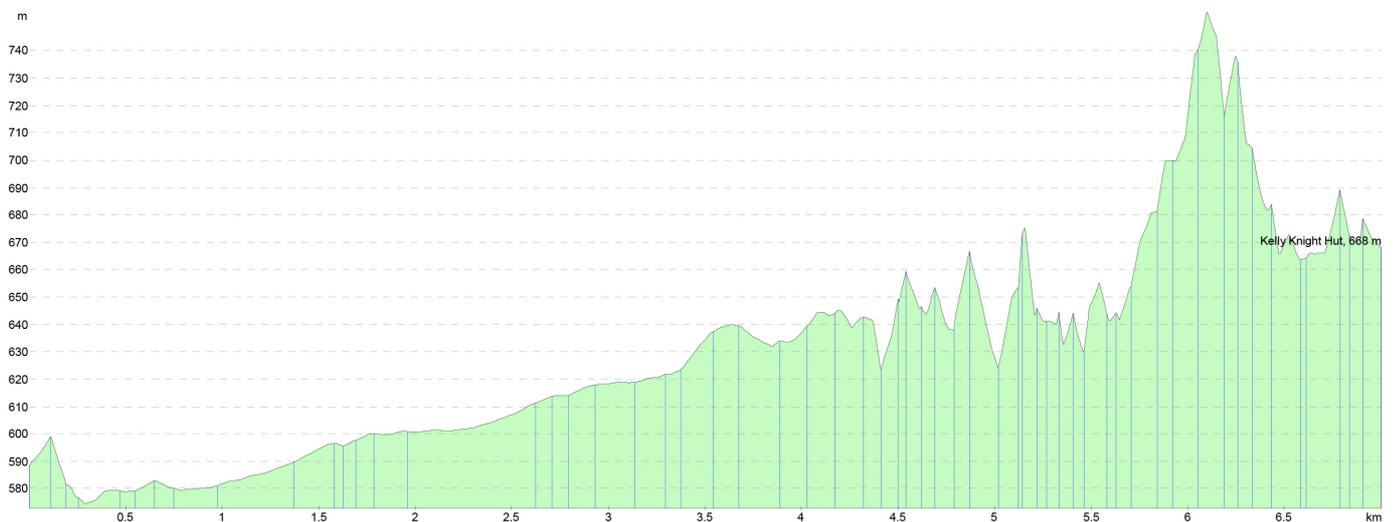
Distance 7km

Total ascent 414m

Accommodation Kelly Knight Hut (\$5, eight bunks)

Map BL36

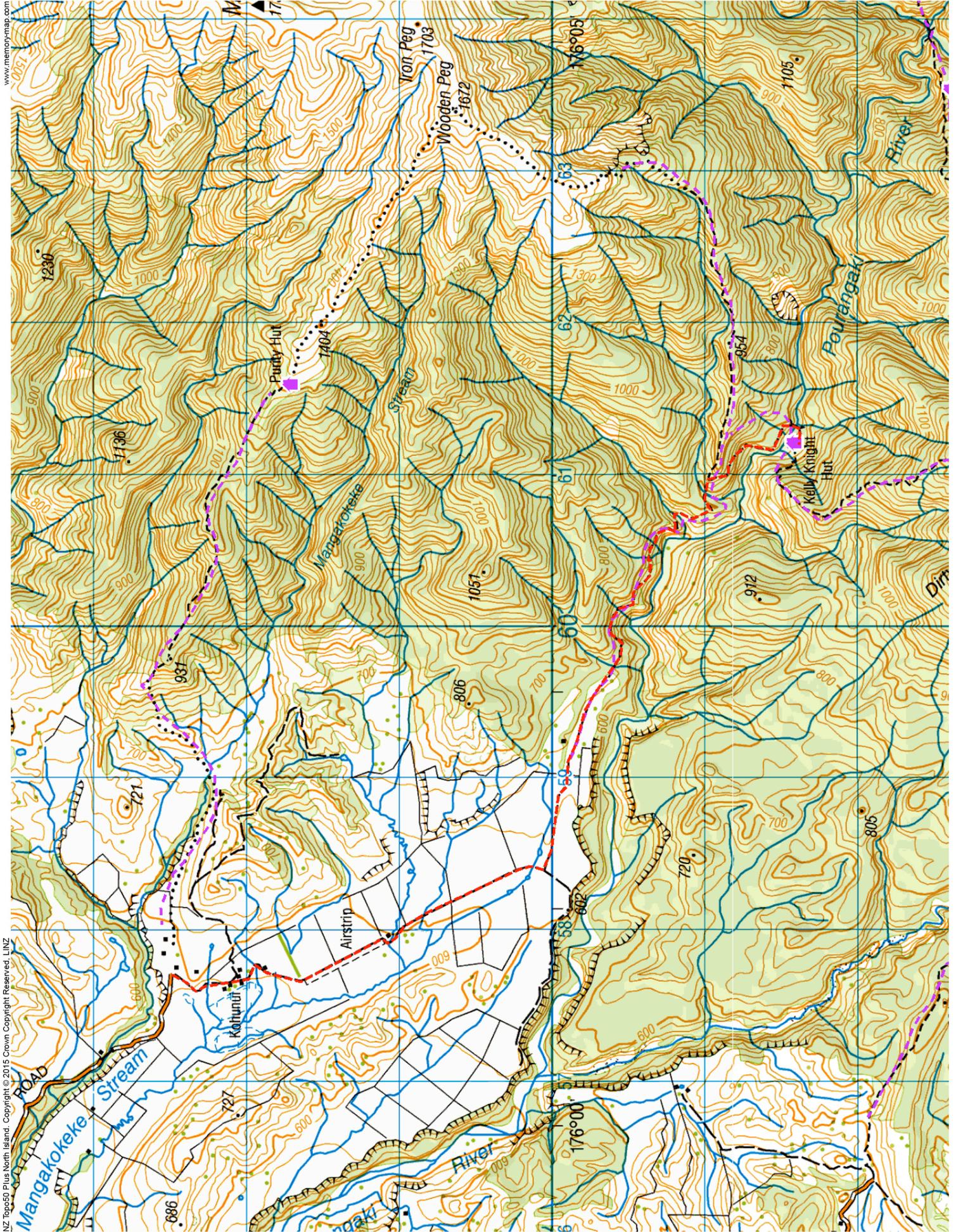
Elevation Profile



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Important Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. The GPX file in these cases is a 'best guess' of the route. Users should not rely on this. Instead, use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass – and your own route-finding experience – 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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