

Dillons Homestead Hut, West Coast

The historic Dillons Homestead Hut is the first hut of many up the Taipo River, with the landscape getting progressively mountainous as you travel upstream into the heart of Arthur's Pass National Park.

It's an easy walk from a DOC car park off SH73, not far from Otira. A 4WD track climbs over a ridge then drops into the valley and follows the surging white water of the Taipo River upstream for 1-2 hours. It's an unlovely, flat, weedy road, as most vehicle-accessible tracks are, but the Taipo provides a majestic and sobering tramping companion.

Side creeks near the hut must be crossed, so it's not a place to visit if heavy rain is forecast. It would be easy to get stranded at the hut, but if that happens there would be few better huts in which to hole up for a day or two.

The hut is situated in open, grassy flats, and the track continues up the valley to the new Dillon Hut, just a few minutes away.

Dillon Homestead Hut was once the homestead of Mary and Paddy Dillon and has been preserved with sawn timber bunks, the open fireplace and – best of all – the cushioned armchairs that you can pull up to the roaring fire.

Old newspaper clippings are plastered on the walls, historic photos are hung lovingly. You walk on carpet, not timber. You stay in a *home*, not a hut.

Push on a bit further upstream and you'll come to what's marked as a cableway on the topo map. It's actually been replaced with a standard three-wire bridge. Beyond is increasingly wild and mountainous country and the valley eventually funnels into Harman Pass, passing several huts on the way.

Experienced parties can think about tramping all the way to Klondyke Corner, just south of Arthur's Pass township. Other options from the hut include a climb along a marked track to Kelly Saddle and Carroll Hut.

Wild File

Access Off SH73, 36km east of Kumara Junction

Grade Easy

Time 2-3hr

Distance 8.78

Total ascent 386m

Accommodation Dillons Homestead Hut (free, 10 bunks); Dillon Hut (\$5, 10 bunks)

Map BU20

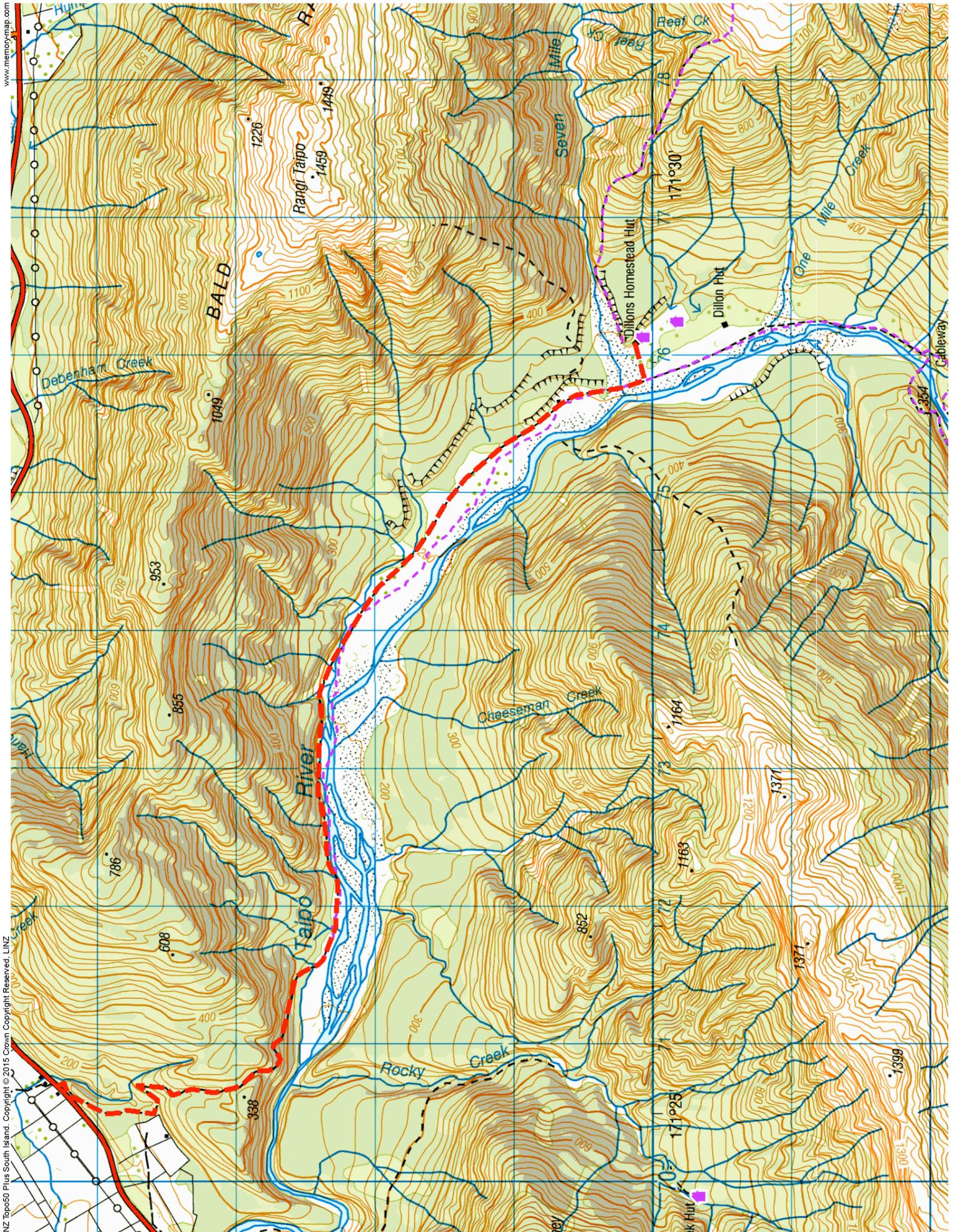
Elevation Profile



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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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