

## Dianes Hut, Ruahine Forest Park

The trip to Dianes begins on a silent track through sections of pine. After a small climb to Komata Peak, the track then heads south with easy tramping along flat ground, before dropping steeply some 700m to the Taruarau River which marks the northern boundary of Ruahine Forest Park.

The Taruarau is waist-deep in normal flows but you could easily become stranded on either side if it's been raining. Fortunately, there are campsites either side of the crossing.

After crossing the river, the track sidles above a small stream before unexpectedly popping into a large clearing containing the historic Shutes Hut.

Behind Shutes Hut, the track to Dianes Hut climbs a spur on a wide and pleasant track through regenerating forest.

With a steady gradient, the bush edge is soon reached. From here, the track is marked with cairns and the odd pole as it weaves through patches of scrub and open clay pans until the main Ruahine Range is reached. On clear days, expansive views over the Kaweka Range, Hawke's Bay and the Central Plateau can be enjoyed from here.

Pleasant tops walking leads to the turn-off to Dianes Hut. Here, a worthwhile side trip can be made farther along the tops to Taruarau Biv (allow 30min each way).

Dianes Hut is situated on a small clearing above the true left of the Koau River.

### Wild File

**Access** From Comet Road end

**Grade** Moderate

**Time** Car park to Shutes Hut, 2.5-3.5hr; To Dianes Hut, 3-4hr

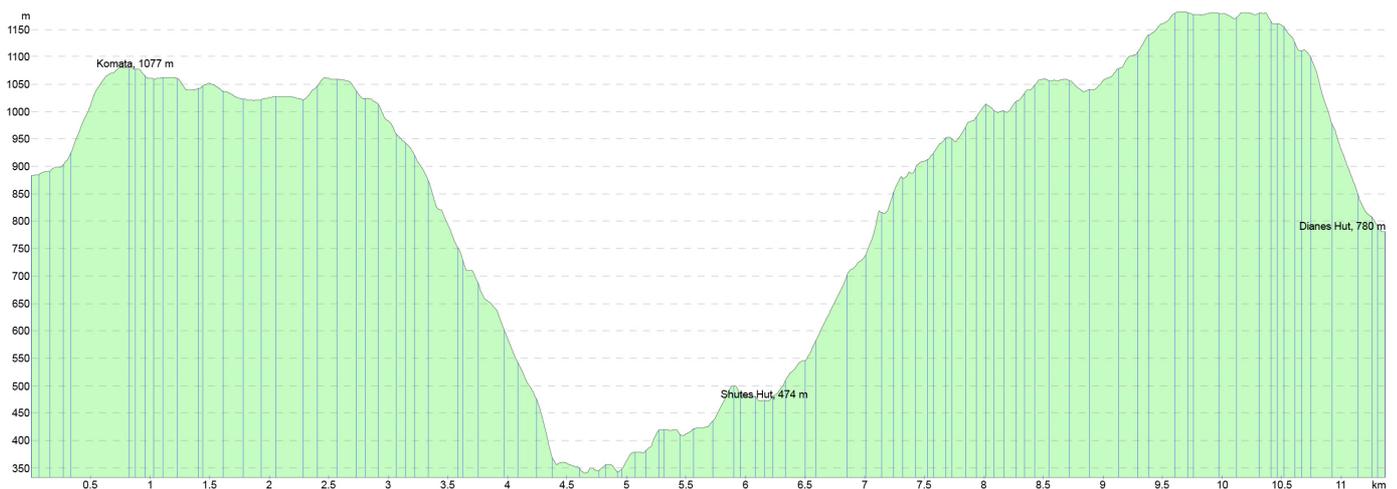
**Distance** 11.4m

**Total ascent** 1204m

**Accommodation** Shutes Hut (\$5, four bunks), Taruarau Bivvy (free, two bunks), Dianes Hut (free, six bunks)

**Map** BK36, BK37

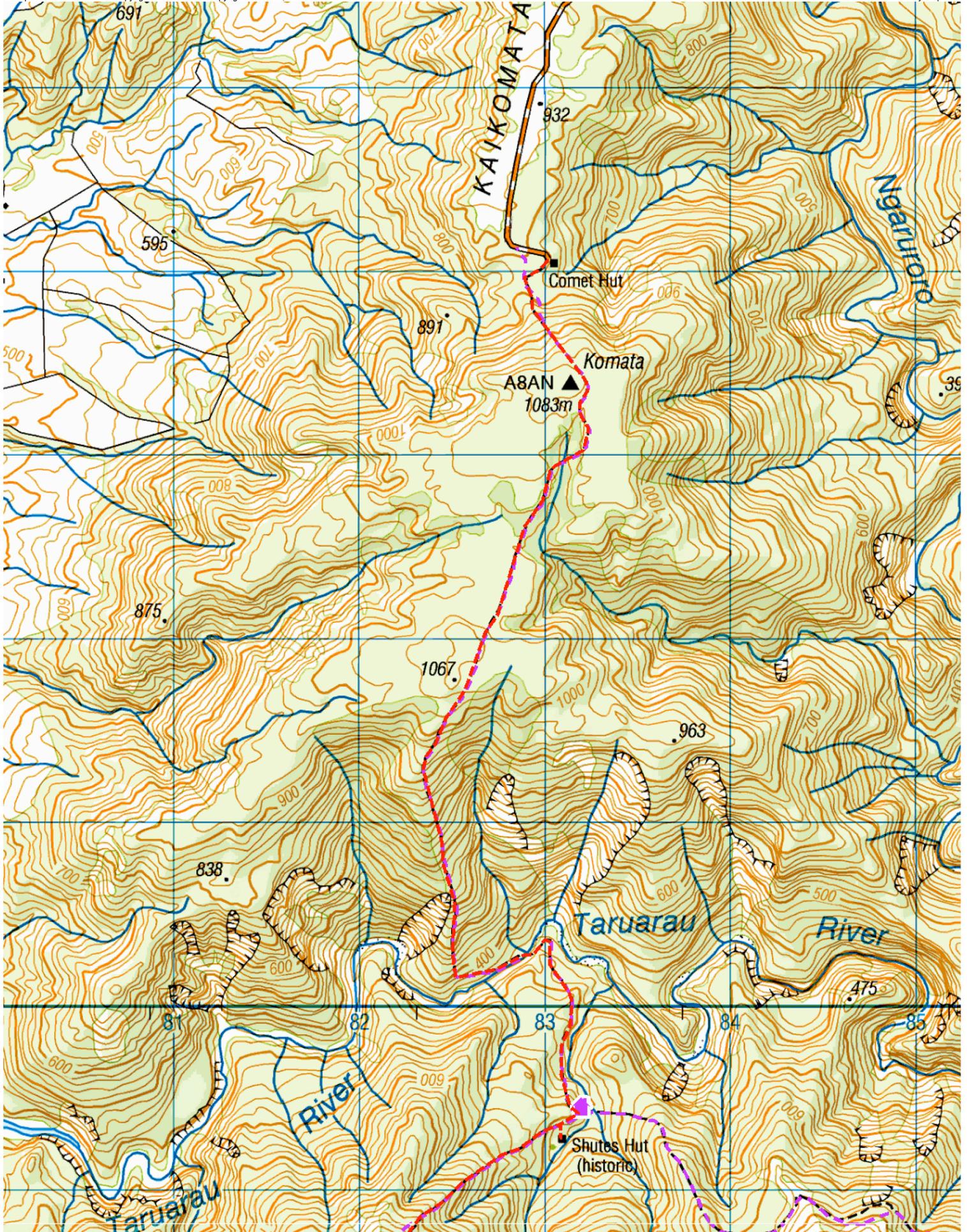
### Elevation Profile



# Dianes Hut, Ruahine Forest Park. Map 1

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# Dianes Hut, Ruahine Forest Park. Map 2

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