

Puke Ariki, Belmont Regional Park

Belmont Regional Park stretches along the hills that form the western side of the Hutt Valley, and the Puke Ariki route links a number of tracks into a full-day traverse of the park's length.

You can park at the Petone Train Station and catch the train north to Manor Park, from where it's a 10min walk to Dry Creek. Follow the track climbing through the bush before easing off and breaking out onto paddocks, with increasingly expansive views of the Hutt Valley.

After a little more than an hour, top Boulder Hill (442m), with 360-degree views encompassing the Kapiti Coast and Porirua and Wellington harbours.

From here, the route drops into a gully to the west and climbs to where a dozen or more Second World War ammunition bunkers are scattered around the hillside.

The track meanders amongst the bunkers and farm buildings and then joins Belmont Road, which is a farm track at this point and not open to vehicles. The section is called the Dress Circle and heads up Round Knob to Cannons Head. The trail isn't well marked, but keeping Korokoro Stream on the left and Cannons Creek on the right, should have you headed in the right direction.

Head towards Belmont Trig at 456m, and descend on the Ridge which drops to the junction with Korokoro Stream Track. This section isn't farmed and the track is a well-benched gravel trail.

When almost all the height is lost, a junction marks access to the historic dam that was an early water supply for Petone.

From here, the track is deep in a gorge and eventually flattens out and emerges at Petone where it's a 15-minute stroll through the industrial area to the railway station.

Wild file

Access Starts at Dry Creek camping ground, near Haywards interchange, SH2

Grade Moderate

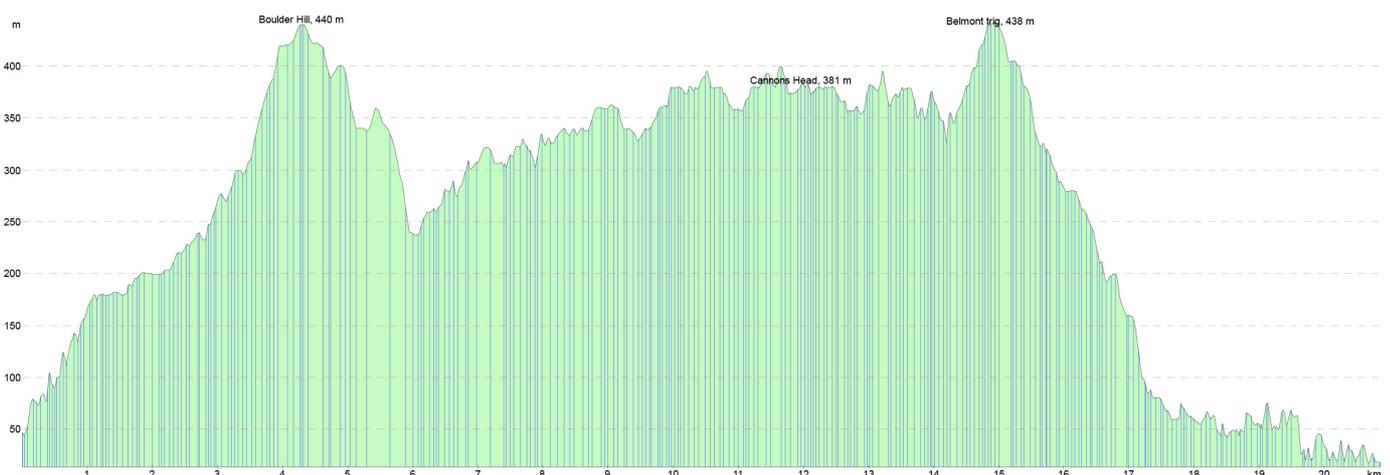
Time 6-8hr

Distance 20.9km

Total ascent 1325m

Map BP32, BQ32

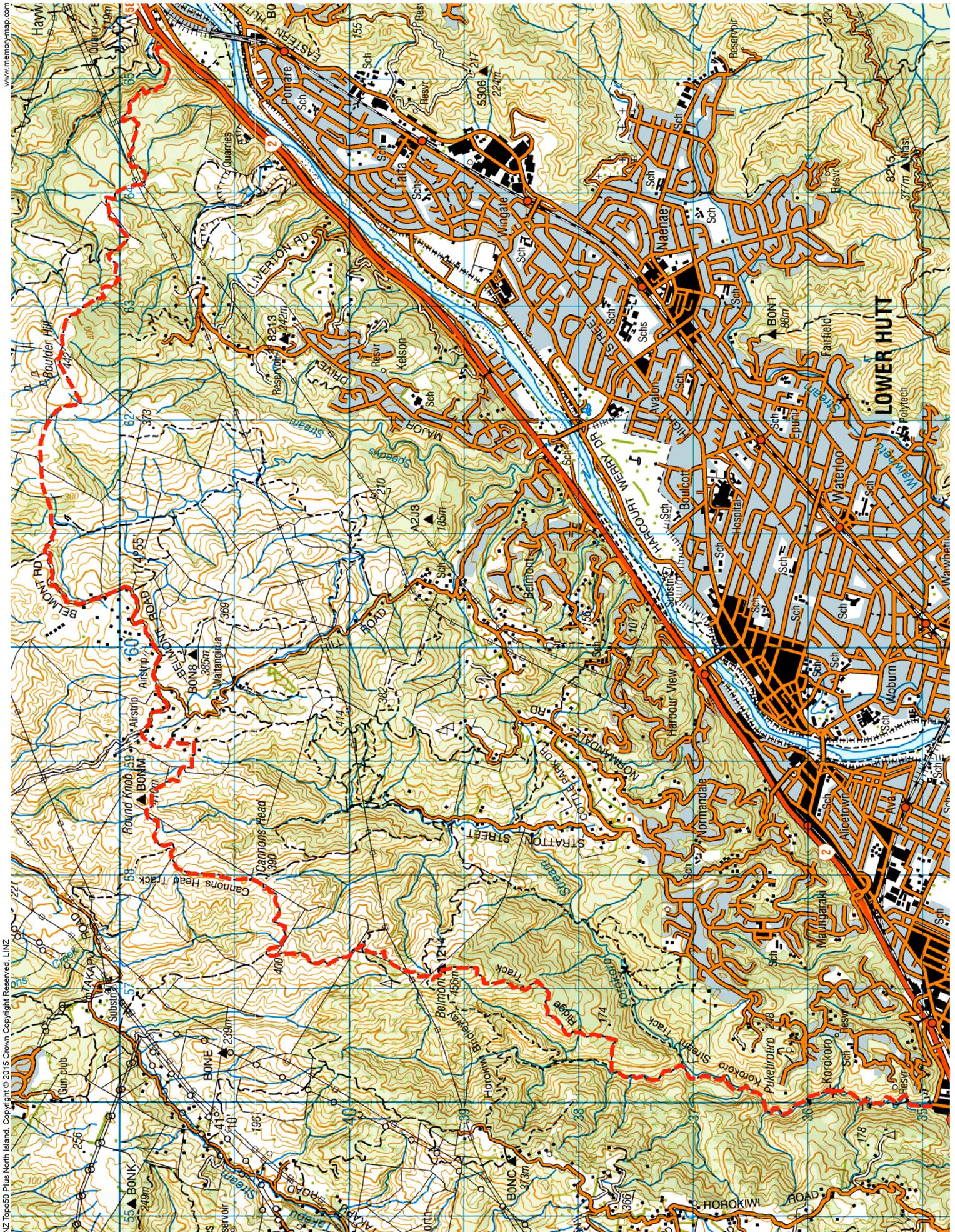
Elevation Profile



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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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