

## Umukarikari, Kaimanawa Forest Park

Umukarikari is both a subrange of the Kaimanawa Range and the name of the high point on the range, and there are two approaches to it: a short or long route – the latter climbing Urchin (1392m) and then heading north to a junction with the short route near Sharp Cone.

The short route, along the Umukarikari Track, appears to be a densely overgrown logging road before it veers hard to the left to join the trail proper.

The track climbs through native forest where teasing views at the crest of each high point offer hope the bushline is about to be reached, only for another forested high point to unfold further along and up.

It's two hours to the bushline where the trail follows the spine of the range all the way to the head of the Waipakihi River and namesake hut.

Climbing over Sharp Cone, and passing the junction to Mt Urchin, the views once again open up.

To reach the summit of Umukarikari (1591m) requires moderately challenging scrambling over tussock and scree and, finally, two large rock cairns stacked next to each other are the only indication that you've located the true summit.

From here, there's a 360-degree panorama of the surrounding landscape.

**Access** From SH1, turn onto Kaimanawa Road and take the third left over the bridge to reach the road end

**Grade** Moderate

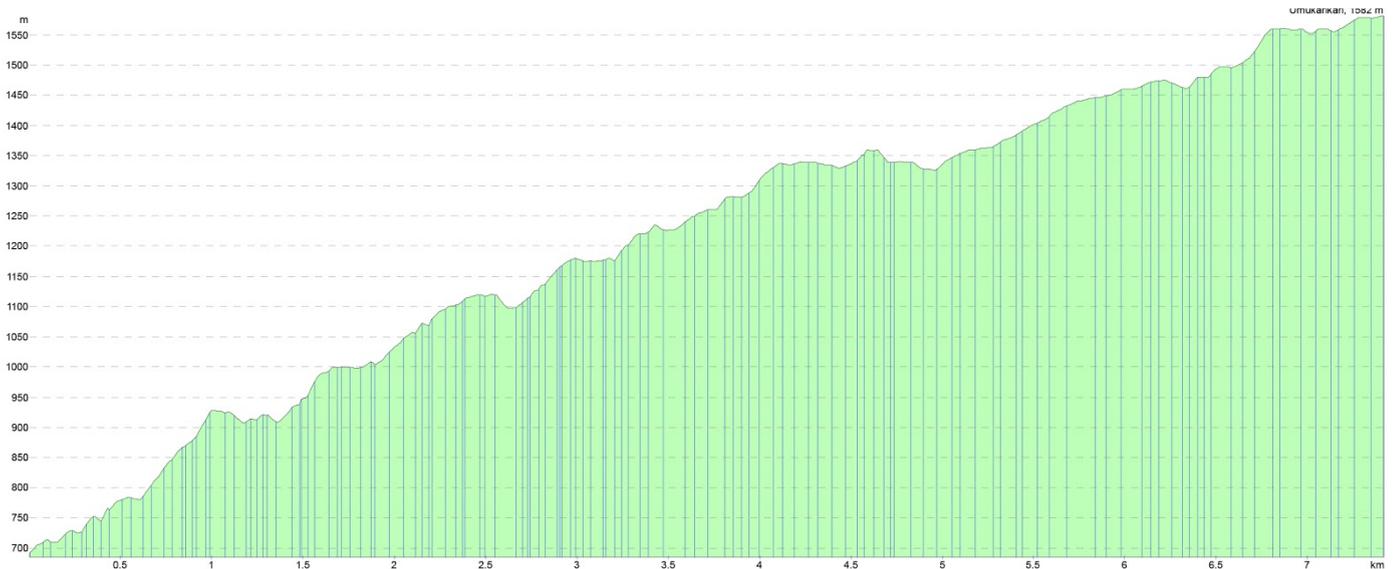
**Time** 4-5hr to Umukarikari

**Distance** 7.42km to Umukarikari

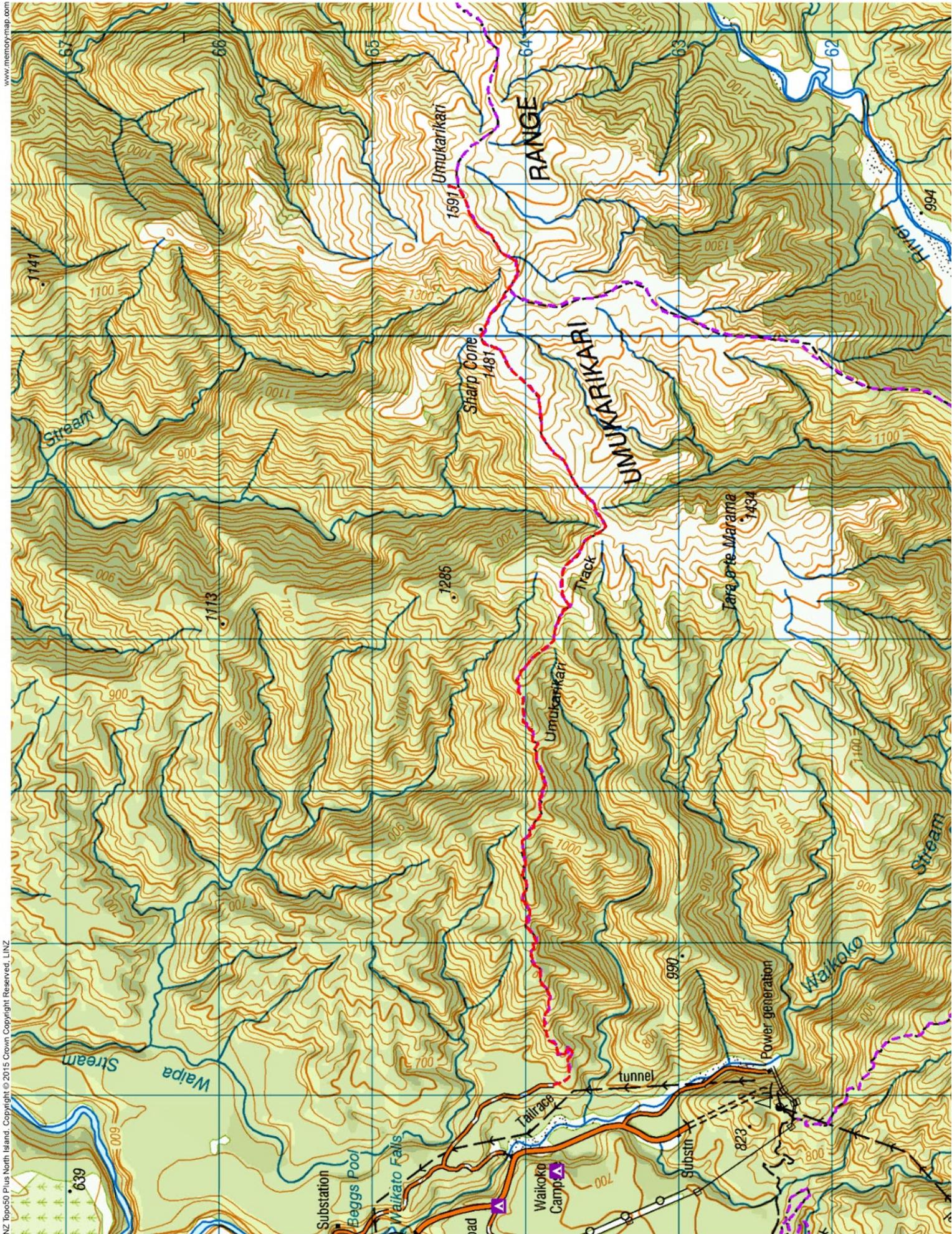
**Total ascent** 1031m to Umukarikari

**Topo50 map** BH35

## Elevation Profile



Umukarikari, Kaimanawa Forest Park



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