

## Puke Ariki Track, Belmont Regional Park

The Puke Ariki Traverse begins with a steep climb on Buchanans Road, a rough and ready 4WD track. This slices through a corridor of regenerating native bush and forestry regrowth to the very top of Boulder Hill. At 442m, it provides a welcome spot to check out the giant boulders and the view before entering the undulating farm park.

On the Boulder Hill farm track, continue over grassy and exposed slopes. The route drops enthusiastically into a series of dry stream gullies only to climb back out for the next set. Sheep and cattle randomly dot the landscape with hardly a tree or shrub to impede Wellington's windy reputation. On the plus side, there are outstanding views of Wellington Harbour, the city and suburbs.

A final long climb leads to the Belmont Farm Hub, past a plethora of striking monolithic Second World War magazines. Their weathered concrete construction make ideal farm storage and stock shelters.

From the Farm Hub, the track climbs to the Airstrip and Gas Station, a hydrocarbons supply pipeline from the Hutt Valley to Porirua, at the very top of the farm. The track continues over Gasoline Ridge to Round Knob at 410m. The track is part of the Dress Circle trail that curves around to Cannons Head and then on to Belmont Trig at 456m, the highest point of the ride. It's a great bit of trail, almost single track, that traverses gradually along the 400m contour.

From the trig, an enjoyable descent leads to the famous Baked Beans Bend and onto Korokoro Forks through a sea of regenerating natives and bird song.

From the forks, continue downstream on the smooth Korokoro Stream Track to the tiny Korokoro weir and old water supply pipeline. More easy flowing trail leads into industrial suburbia and onto Pito-One Road at the very bottom of the hill.

Head right on Pito-One Road to cross SH2 on the pedestrian rail overpass and then cycle east and north on a number of streets to cross the Hutt River on another pedestrian overpass. The route then joins the Hutt River Trail nearly all the way back to the start point at Dry Creek. It's a nice peddle offering a good look around the back-blocks of Lower Hutt.

### **Wild file**

**Access** From SH2 take the Dry Creek exit just before the SH58 exit. Alternatively, take the train to Manor Park Station

**Grade** 2-3

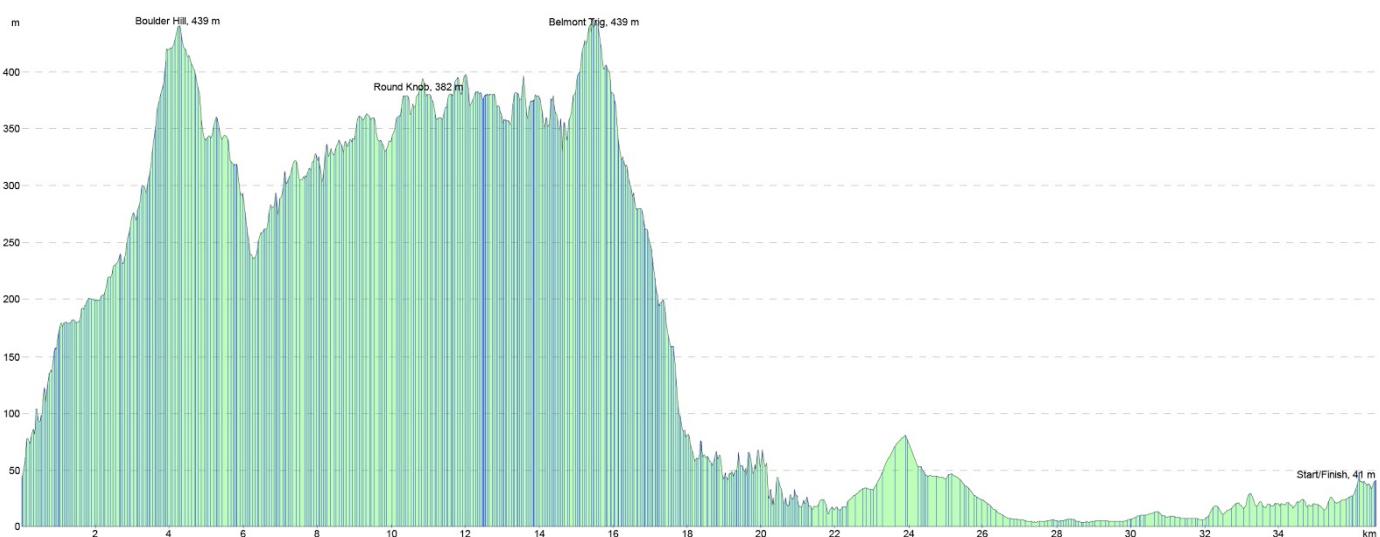
**Time** 3.5-5hr

**Distance** 37km

**Total ascent** 1454m

**Info** The farmland section is closed for lambing between August and October.

### **Elevation profile**



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