

Study site information

6: Manawatu Ski Lodge

Notes for schools and educators



Manawatu Ski Lodge study site. Photo: Benjamin Moorhouse

Key information

Unmodified (by human activity) site in an alpine environment

This 20 x 20 m plot is an unmodified location within a mid-to high-altitude alpine environment. The area is located directly in front of a ski hut.

For an overview of study sites see [Section 4](#), page 7.

More information on the Round the Mountain Track

www.mtruapehu.com/winter/whakapapa

[Topographic map of New Zealand](#)

Getting to site

Take SH47 towards Whakapapa Village. Continue through the village and along Bruce Road towards Whakapapa ski field. Drive to the top of the road and park before the barriers into the ski field.

On foot, face away from the ski village and the mountain. Follow the track and set of steps leading up to Graduates and Serac ski huts on the left side of the car park. When at Serac Hut, turn left and follow the path. You will see a signpost for Manawatu Lodge that will take you up and over a small ridge, followed by downward steps. Keep following the path until you see the lodge in front of you. Once at the hut, turn right and the study site is in front of the hut.

The red dot on the map indicates the location of the study site.



Visitor facilities and parking

The car park is large enough for coaches and minibuses. There are toilets and a café in the Whakapapa ski field village.



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Recommended activities

- ▶ For pre- and post-field-trip learning activities see [Section 2](#).
- ▶ For information on NCEA assessment resources that could be linked to fieldwork at this site see [Section 3: Year 11–13 NCEA assessment resources](#).
- ▶ For ideas on practical learning activities across Tongariro National Park, see [Section 4](#):
 - Observation activity – page 9
 - Ideas for using study sites – page 10
 - Geology activity ideas – page 11
 - Human impact activities – pages 12 and 13.
- ▶ Using a measured transect or quadrat (1 x 1 m) you can investigate:
 - vegetation (eg tussock, vegetable sheep)
 - invertebrates (eg alpine grasshopper)
 - geology (eg rock types, erosion and origin).
- ▶ 5-minute bird count (eg pipit/pīhoihoi) – see [Experiencing Birds in your green space](#), page 10.
- ▶ Geology activity information in [Section 2](#), page 10. Geology activity sheets in [Section 7](#), pages 9–14.
 - Look out for deposited volcanic bombs.
 - The ridge you walk down is a recent lava flow.

Comparison sites

For an overview of study sites see [Section 4](#), page 7.

- ▶ *Happy Valley site* for comparison with a heavily modified site in a similar area and altitude.
- ▶ *Whakapapanui Walk site* for comparison with a non-alpine forested environment.
- ▶ *Ohakune Mountain Road site* for comparison with an alpine environment in a similar altitude on the opposite side of the mountain.

Health and safety

For general health and safety considerations see [Section 4](#), pages 8–9.

- ▶ Uneven rocky surface, off track. Be careful of trip hazards.
- ▶ Weather – this site is exposed to the elements, and weather can change quickly. Make sure all students are prepared.
- ▶ Volcanically active area – make sure your group is aware of emergency warning and evacuation procedures. www.doc.govt.nz/volcanicrisk
- ▶ Manawatu Lodge is often in use, so respect lodge users' privacy and don't go up to windows.

Education providers working here

Hillary Outdoors:

www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz/portfolio/opc-tongariro-2

Other education experiences in the area

For further information on activities in this area, see:

[Whakapapa Village Area information](#)

[Tongariro National Park information](#)

[Central North Island information](#)

