

# Study site information

## 8: Mangawhero Forest Walk

Notes for schools and educators



### Key information

#### Unmodified (by human activity) site in a forested area

This 20 x 20 m plot is in a thick, forested environment with a variety of species, including ferns, beech trees and grasses. The site has little deer browsing, but the stream nearby often has whio.

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

#### More information on tracks in the area:

[Ohakune i-SITE](#)

[Mangawhero Falls Walk](#)

[Ohakune area short walks](#)

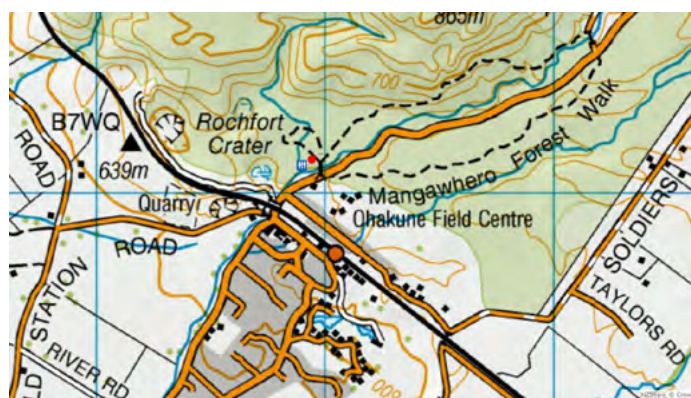
[Topographic map of New Zealand](#)

### Getting to site

Drive into Ohakune on SH 49. Opposite the i-SITE, turn onto Goldfinch Street towards Turoa ski field. Follow this road for 2.5 km (about 5 min), ending on Ohakune Mountain Road. Just out of town you will see a sign for Tongariro National Park, then a car park on the left side of the road. Park here or in the next car park.

Walk 10 m beyond the second car park. You will see a DOC sign for the Rimu and Mangawhero walks. Follow the signs for the Rimu walk; you will cross a footbridge and reach the study site 10 m along the path on the left-hand side.

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



### Visitor facilities and parking

The car park is large enough for one coach or 3-4 minibuses.

Toilets are available at this site, follow the signposts. Visit the i-SITE in Ohakune for more local information.



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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.
- ▶ Useful stream monitoring tools:
  - [Stream Health Monitoring Assessment Kit \(SHMAK\)](#)
  - [NIWA Freshwater monitoring database](#)
  - [Take-Action for Water Resource](#)

## Comparison sites

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

- ▶ *Ohakune Mountain Road site* for comparison with a higher altitude environment.
- ▶ *Whakapapanui Walk* for comparison with an unmodified and forested environment on the northern side of the mountain, and/or a stream study comparison.
- ▶ *Alpine Flush site* for a stream-study comparison in different altitude.

## Health and safety

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

- ▶ Densely forested area – beware of tripping hazards, sharp vegetation and uneven ground when off the track.
- ▶ Multiple set traps throughout the area – stay clear and don't touch.
- ▶ Busy road at start of track – beware of fast-moving vehicles.
- ▶ River at start of track – beware of fast-flowing water if heading down to stream level.

## Education providers working here

Hillary Outdoors:

[www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz/portfolio/opc-tongariro-2](http://www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz/portfolio/opc-tongariro-2)

## Other education experiences in the area

For further information on activities in this area, see:

[Ohakune Old Coach Road](#)

[Tongariro National Park information](#)

[Central North Island information](#)

