




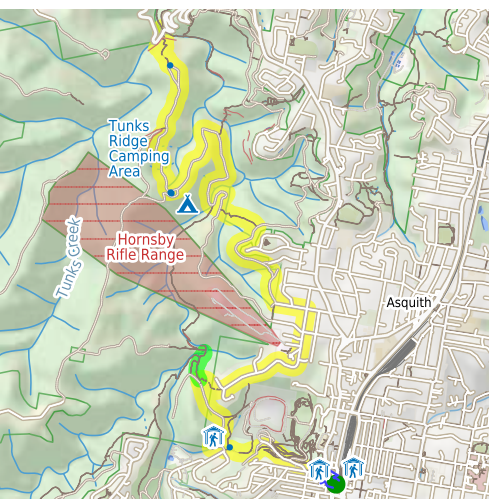
Hornsby to Galston Gorge

 4 h to 6 h

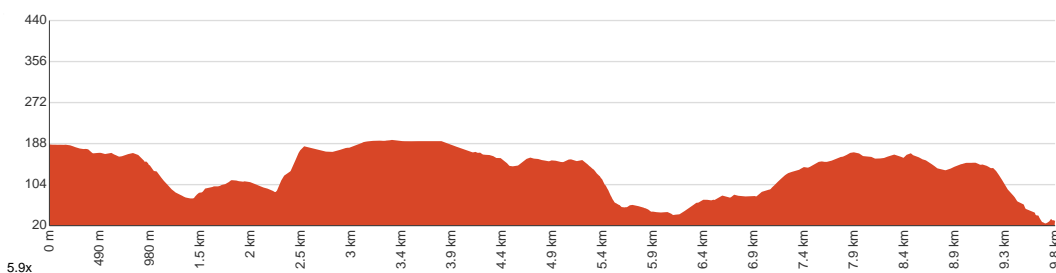

9.8 km
One way


↑ 392 m
↓ 549 m


Hard track



Starting at Hornsby station, you soon head into the bush and down the steep depression era stone steps through the volcanic Old Mans Valley, to a picnic area at the end of Rosemead Rd. Here you follow the Blue Gum walk through one of Sydney's rare Blue Gum Forest stands to then cross Berowra Creek a few times at Fishponds waterhole. After exploring the edge of the valley you will cross the Steele Military Bridge before climbing to Tunks Ridge rest area. Not far from here the walk starts to lead steeply down enjoying more sandstone caves to cross under Galston Road to find the Galston trackhead. Note this walk was re-routed in early 2016 to go via the streets of Hornsby Heights. This re-route is due to the multi-agency decision to close the Fishponds to Steele Bridge section of the Benowie Track. This decision has upset many people and the protest continues. Let us begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 4 of 6
Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely

Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Gradient	Very steep (4/6)
Signage	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)
Experience Required	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

Getting to the start: From , Pearce's Corner.

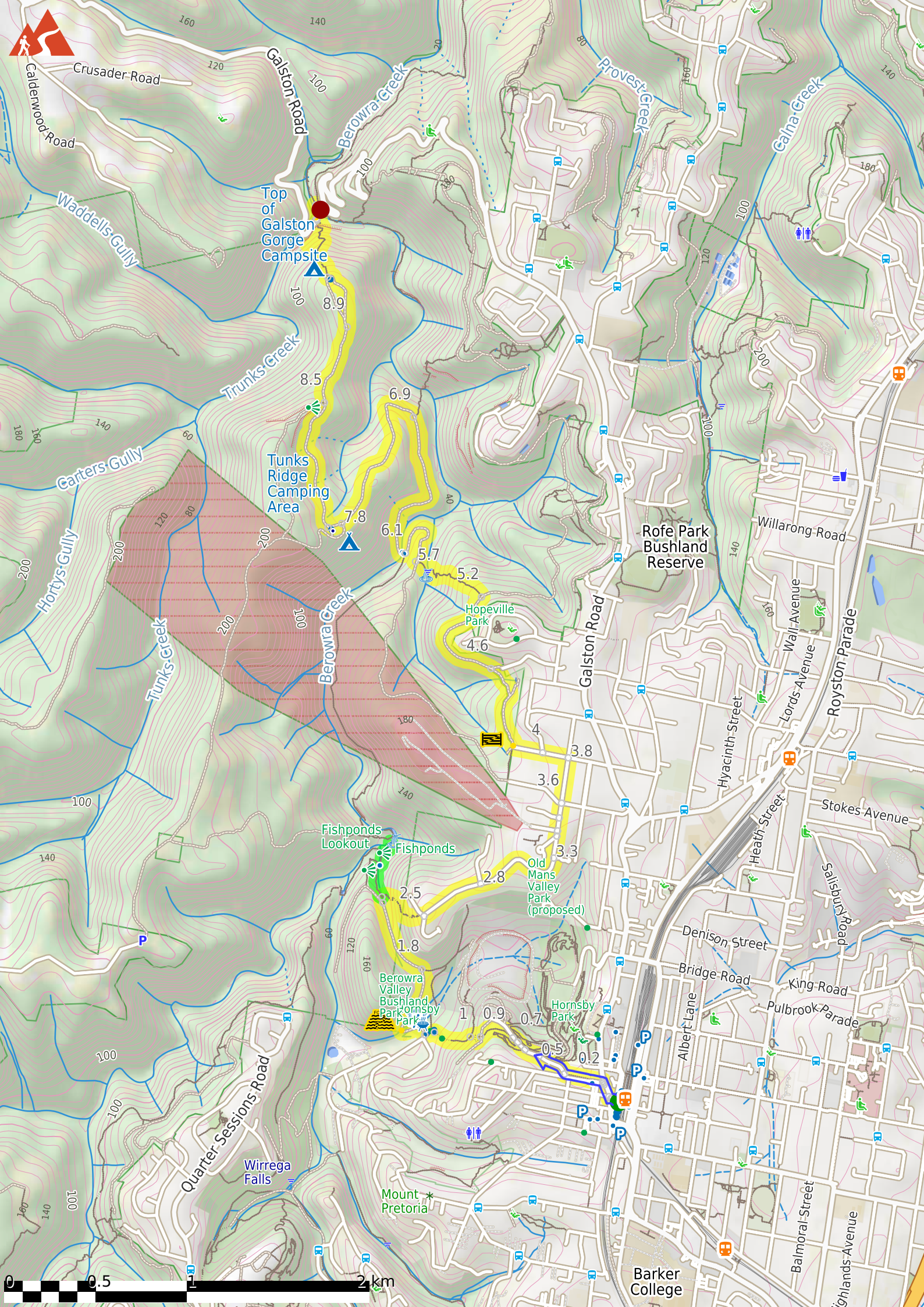
Before you start any journey ensure you;

- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are healthy and fit enough for this journey

If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

Share
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com.au/LSLK61)
[/i/LSLK61](https://bushwalk.com.au/LSLK61)





Calderwood Road

Crusader Road

Galston Road

Berowra Creek

Provest Creek

Calha Creek

Waddell's Gully

Top of Galston Gorge Campsite

Trunks Creek

Garters Gully

Tunks Ridge Camping Area

Hortys Gully

Tunks Creek

Berowra Creek

Rofe Park Bushland Reserve

Willarong Road

Galston Road

Wall Avenue

Lords Avenue

Royston Parade

Hyacinth Street

Heath Street

Stokes Avenue

Fishponds Lookout

Fishponds

Old Mans Valley Park (proposed)

Berowra Valley Bushland Park

Hornsby Park

Denison Street

Bridge Road

King Road

Pulbrook Parade

Albert Lane

Balmoral Street

Highlands Avenue

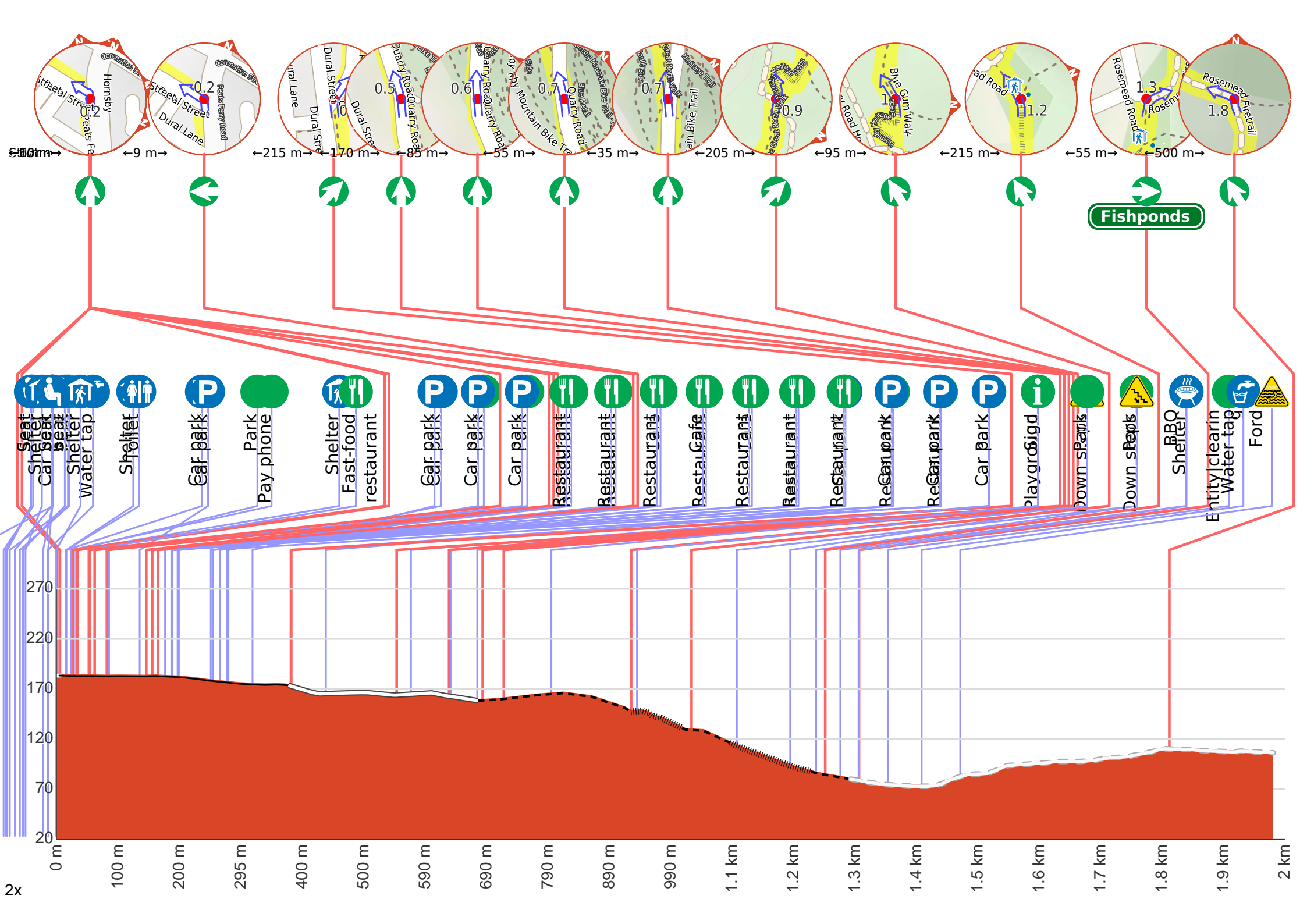
Quarter Sessions Road

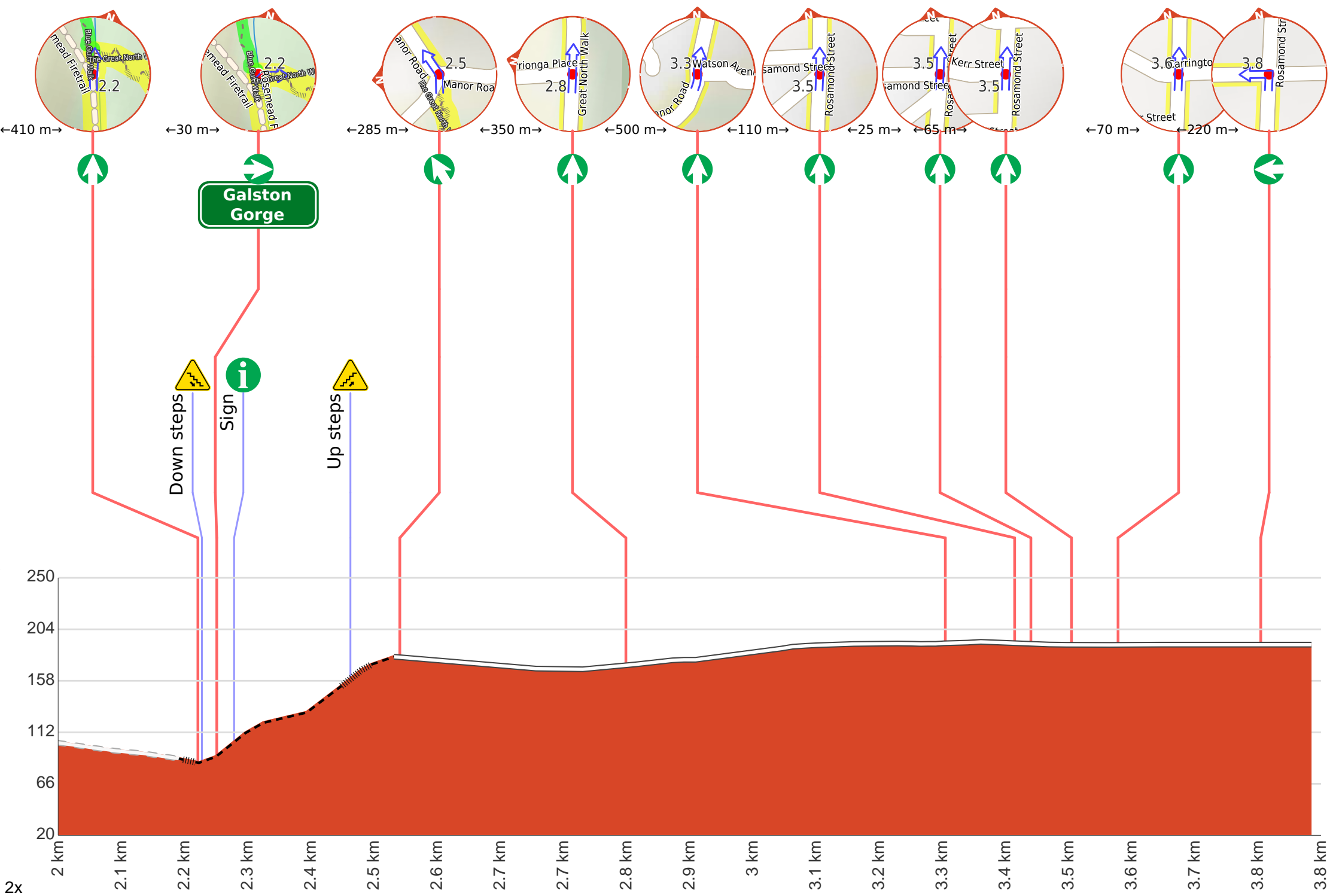
Wirrega Falls

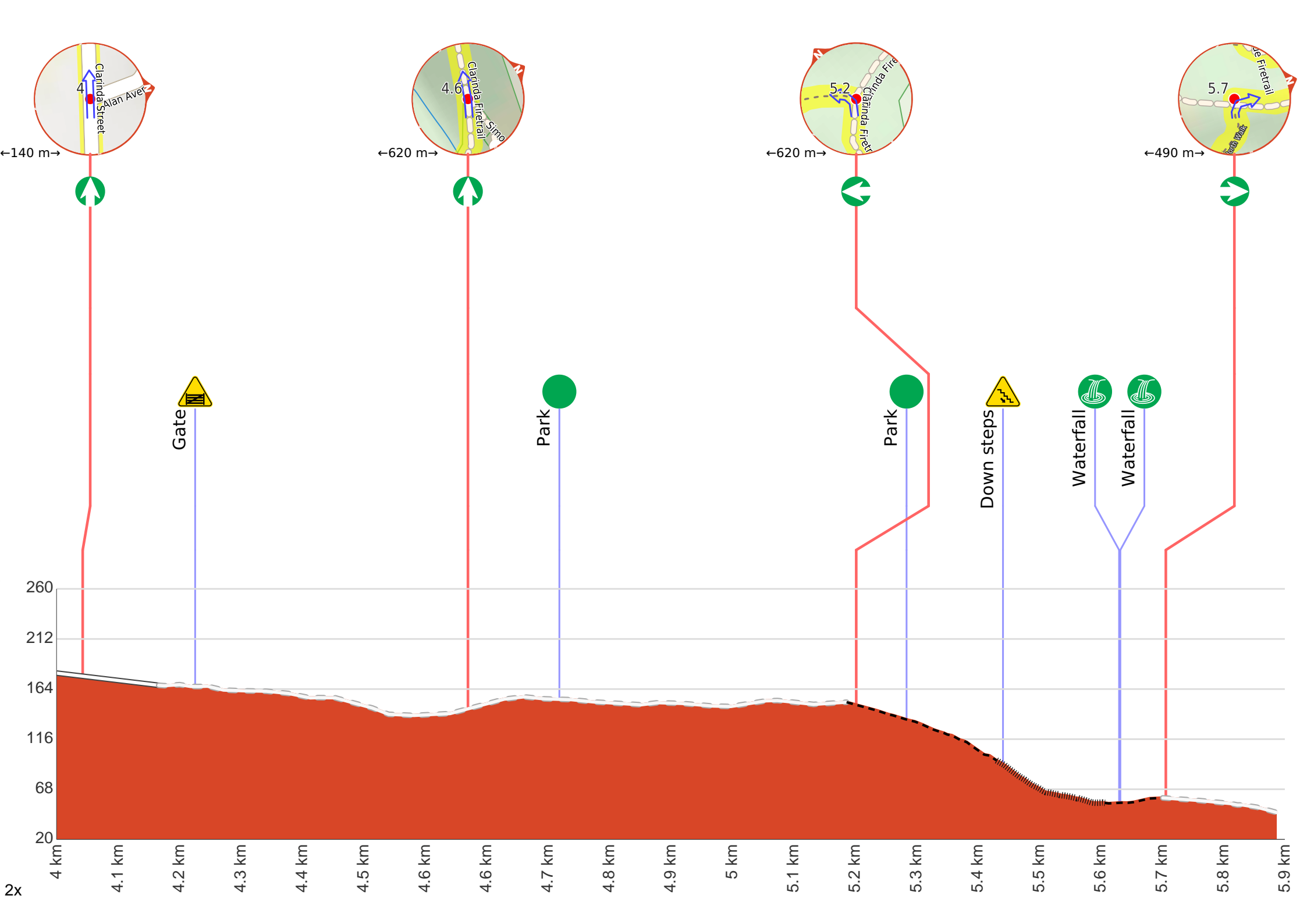
Mount Pretoria

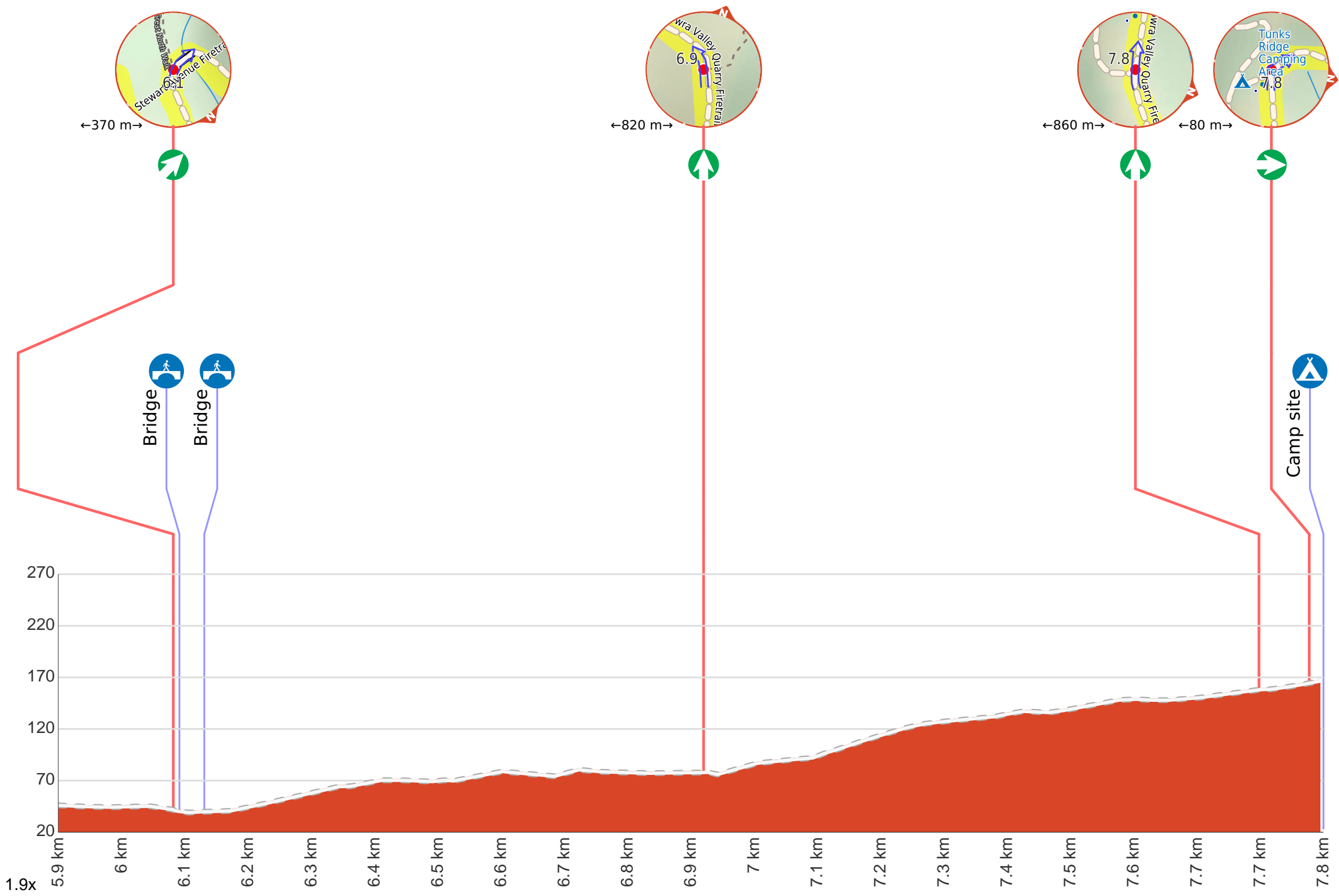
Barker College

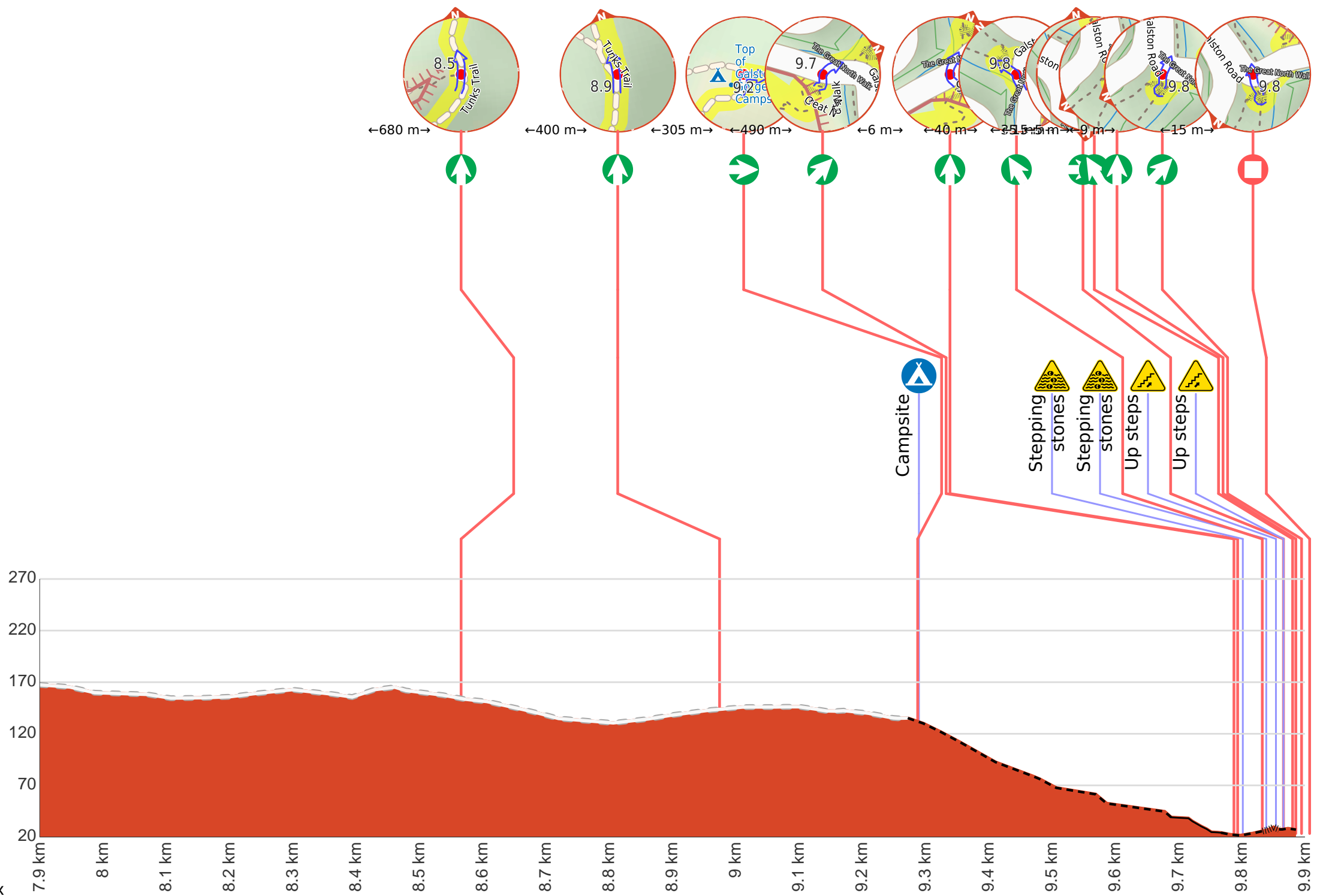




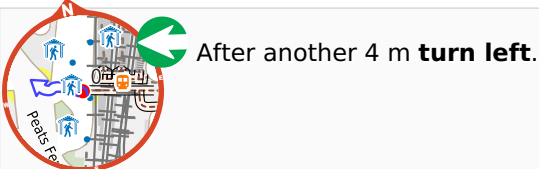
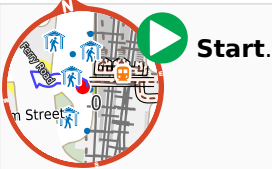








Getting started: From the western side of Hornsby Railway Station, this walk first crosses the bus lane, then follows the large 'To the Great North Walk' sign across the Station St pedestrian crossing, and then across the Pacific Highway at the traffic lights. Here the walk turns right and follows the footpath (across 'Dural Lane') past some shops to cross 'Dural St'. The walk then turns left and follows the footpath down along 'Dural St', past a few more shops. Continuing past the units, this walk then turns right onto 'Quarry Rd' and follows the road down the gently hill for about 180m to an intersection with 'Old Mans Valley' management trail and locked gate (on your right). Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Quarry Road down the gentle hill, leaving the houses behind to come to an intersection with a track, signposted with a 'Great North Walk' sign (on your left).

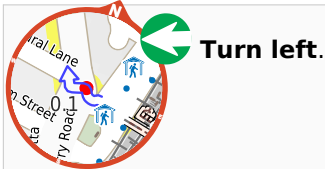


- There is a car park (about 140 m back from the start).
- There is a seat (about 90 m back from the start).
- There is a seat (about 85 m back from the start).
- There is a seat (about 85 m back from the start).

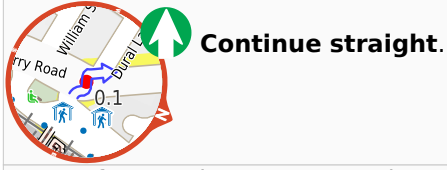
- There is a seat (about 80 m back from the start).
- There is a car park (about 70 m back from the start).
- There is a park (about 65 m back from the start).
- There is a seat (about 60 m back from the start).
- There is a shelter (about 55 m back from the start).
- There is a seat (about 25 m back from the start).
- There is a seat (about 20 m back from the start).
- There is water tap (about 20 m back from the start).
- There is a shelter (about 6 m back from the start).
- Find the shelter at the start.
- Find the toilet at the start.
- Find the car park at the start.
- Find the car park at the start.
- Then pass the "Cenotaph Park" (15 m on your left).
- Then pass the pay phone (15 m on your right).
- After another 8 m pass the shelter (15 m on your right).



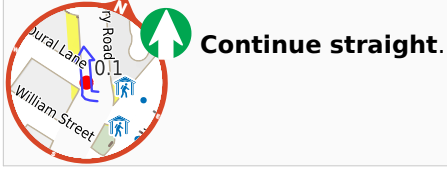
-
- After another 15 m pass the "Hamburgers Fish & Chips Kebabs" (15 m on your right).
- After another 220 m pass the car park (235 m on your right).
- After another 40 m pass the "Hornsby TAFE parking" (275 m on your right).
- Then pass the park (235 m on your left).
- Then pass the car park (205 m on your right).



- After another 210 m pass the "Hornsby Park" (210 m on your right).



- After another 25 m pass the car park (90 m on your left).





After another 65 m **continue straight**.



After another 30 m pass the "Magic Kebab" (55 m on your right).



After another 10 m pass the "Curry Connection" (55 m on your right).



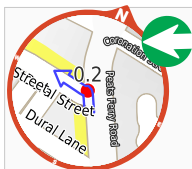
After another 10 m pass the "Thai Tables" (15 m on your left).



Then pass the "MeeChai" (60 m on your right).



Continue straight.



After another 9 m **turn left**.



After another 20 m pass the "Bee's Knees Cafe" (50 m on your right).



Then pass the "Chaat Corner" (35 m on your right).

W: chaatcornerhornsby.com.au

Fr-Su 12:00-16:00

Tu-Su 17:00-22:00



Then pass the "Zi Teresa Pizza and Pasta" (35 m on your right).



Then pass the "Brewhaha Cafe" (40 m on your right).

W: www.brewhaha.com.au



Then pass the "Refinery Espresso" (40 m on your right).

W: refineryespresso.wordpress.com

Mo-Fr 05:30-16:00

Sa 06:00-14:00



Then pass the "Mori Japanese Restaurant" (45 m on your right).



Then pass the "Oki Oki Japanese Restaurant" (45 m on your right).

W: okioki.com.au T: +61 2 9476 6900

Mo-We 11:00-14:30, 17:00-21:00

Th-Sa 11:00-14:30, 17:00-21:30



Then pass the "Armeros Eatery" (55 m on your right).



Then pass the car park (95 m on your right).



Then pass the "Bambino's Pizza & Pasta" (60 m on your right).



Then pass the "Asahi Sushi Bar" (25 m on your right).



After another 245 m pass the car park (230 m on your left).



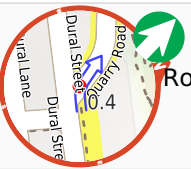
Then pass the restaurant (on your right).



After another 125 m pass the car park (100 m on your right).



After another 190 m pass the "Old Mans Valley Park (proposed)" (230 m on your right).



Veer right, to head along Quarry Road.



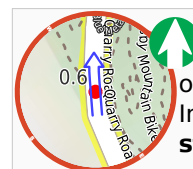
After another 255 m pass the car park (255 m on your right).



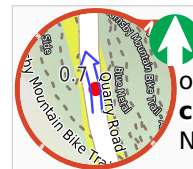
After another 40 m pass the playground (265 m on your right).



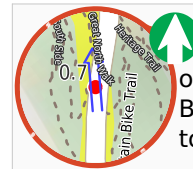
At the intersection of Old Mans Valley Firetrail & Quarry Road **continue straight**, to head along Quarry Road.



After another 85 m (at the intersection of Hornsby Mountain Bike Trail - Intermediate & Quarry Road) **continue straight**, to head along Quarry Road.



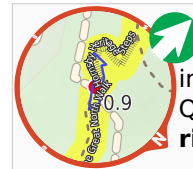
After another 55 m (at the intersection of Quarry Road & Great North Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Great North Walk (a walking track).



After another 35 m (at the intersection of Great North Walk & Hornsby Mountain Bike Trail - Difficult) **continue straight**, to head along Great North Walk.



After another 75 m pass the sign (9 m on your right).



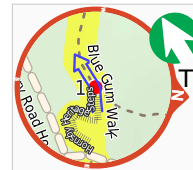
After another 125 m (at the intersection of Great North Walk & Quarry Road) **veer right**, to head along Great North Walk.



After another 9 m head down the steps (about 85 m long)



After another 160 m pass the "Hornsby Park" (210 m on your left).



Veer left, to head along Benowie Track.



After another 200 m pass the park (200 m on your left).



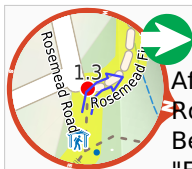
Then head down the steps (about 130 m long)



After another 10 m **veer left**, to head along Benowie Track.



After another 25 m pass the shelter (15 m on your right).



Fishponds

After another 30 m (at the intersection of Rosemead Firetrail - Blue Gum Walk & Benowie Track) by following the "Fishponds" sign **turn right**, to head along Rosemead Firetrail - Blue Gum Walk (a vehicle track).



Then pass the BBQ (on your right).



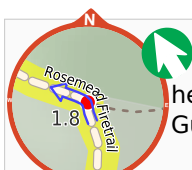
After another 45 m find the "Berowra Valley Bushland Park" (15 m on your right).



After another 55 m pass the water tap (on your right).



After another 60 m cross the ford.



After another 335 m **veer left**, to head along Rosemead Firetrail - Blue Gum Walk.



After another 410 m (at the intersection of Blue Gum Walk & Rosemead Firetrail - Blue Gum Walk) **continue straight**, to head along Blue Gum Walk (a walking track).



After another 6 m head down the steps (about 20 m long)

Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to Fishponds crossing.



Fishponds

To start this optional side trip continue straight here. by following the "Fishponds" sign **Start** heading along Blue Gum Walk.



Find the Signposts at the start.



After another 8 m head down the steps (about 10 m long)



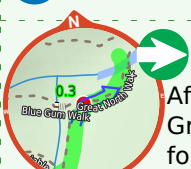
After another 155 m come to the viewpoint (50 m on your left).



At the intersection of Blue Gum Walk & Negotiable **continue straight**, to head along Blue Gum Walk.



Then cross the bridge (about 7 m long)



Dural

After another 65 m (at the intersection of Great North Walk & Blue Gum Walk) by following the "Dural" sign **turn right**, to head along Great North Walk.



After another 15 m find the "Fishponds Lookout" (6 m on your left).



Fishponds Lookout is a fenced rock platform at the intersection of the Benowie walking track and the Rosemead trackhead. It is marked with a number of Great North Walk signs. This informally named lookout has good views down over Fishponds, a large waterhole on Berowra Creek. Looking north across the creek, there are views to the upper waterhole and the cliffs on the other side.



Then come to the "Fishponds Lookout" (on your left).



Then pass the "Signposts" (on your right).



After another 35 m cross the stepping stones This is flood prone; never cross flooded waterways.



About 35 m past the end is "Fishponds".



Fishponds is a long waterhole on Berowra Creek in Berowra Valley Regional Park. The waterhole is lined with tall cliffs and a few sandstone caves. At the southern end, there are stepping stones to help cross the creek, and a small timber bridge at the northern end. This is a beautiful spot and a worthy place to rest and enjoy the water passing by. The waterhole is fairly popular with local teens in summer, cooling off. Swimming and jumping at the Fishponds waterhole has resulted in fatalities - please heed the signs and Cora's parents' plea and enjoy the water from the edge.



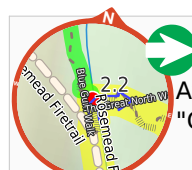
The end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 320 m to the main route.



Back at the main route turn left and follow on from the 2.2 km waypoint.



Galston Gorge

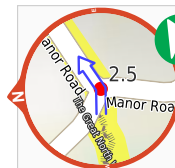
After another 5 m by following the "Galston Gorge" sign **turn right**.



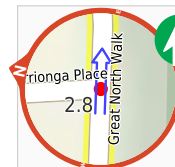
After another 25 m pass the "Signposts" (on your left).



After another 180 m head up the metal steps (about 45 m long)



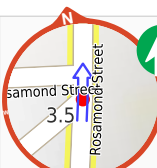
After another 35 m (at the intersection of Manor Road & Great North Walk) **veer left**, to head along Manor Road (a residential road).



After another 350 m (at the intersection of Manor Road & Arrionga Place) **continue straight**, to head along Manor Road.



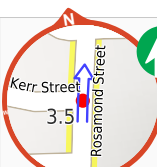
After another 500 m (at the intersection of Watson Avenue & Rosamond Street) **continue straight**, to head along Rosamond Street.



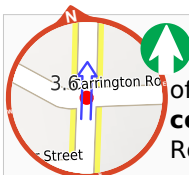
After another 110 m **continue straight**, to head along Rosamond Street.



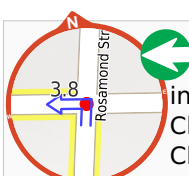
After another 25 m **continue straight**, to head along Rosamond Street.



After another 65 m (at the intersection of Rosamond Street & Kerr Street) **continue straight**, to head along Rosamond Street.



After another 70 m (at the intersection of Carrington Road & Rosamond Street) **continue straight**, to head along Rosamond Street.



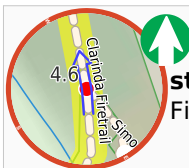
After another 220 m (at the intersection of Rosamond Street & Clarinda Street) **turn left**, to head along Clarinda Street.



After another 140 m (at the intersection of Alan Avenue & Clarinda Street) **continue straight**, to head along Clarinda Street.



After another 180 m head through/around the gate.



After another 440 m **continue straight**, to head along Clarinda Firetrail.



After another 145 m pass the "Hopeville Park" (145 m on your right).



After another 550 m pass the "Hopeville Park" (130 m on your right).



At the intersection of Clarinda Firetrail & Great North Walk **turn left**, to head along Great North Walk (a walking track).



After another 235 m head down the steps (about 170 m long)



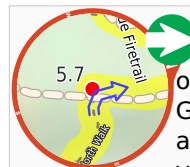
After another 15 m find the "Unnamed waterfall" (on your left).



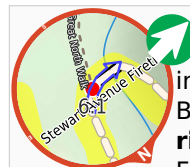
This waterfall is about 3 meters tall, with a square black face. The water cascades down to a rock platform and into the sandy creek. The waterfall is active after recent rain, and may offer a trickle at other times. At this section of the creek, the gully is quite steep, creating a wonderful environment for the green moss and ferns to grow. A great spot to rest and enjoy the cool on hot days.



Then pass the waterfall (20 m on your left).



After another 75 m (at the intersection of Berowra Valley Quarry Firetrail & Great North Walk) **turn right**, to head along Berowra Valley Quarry Firetrail (a vehicle track).



After another 370 m (at the intersection of Stewart Avenue Firetrail & Berowra Valley Quarry Firetrail) **veer right**, to head along Stewart Avenue Firetrail.



After another 9 m cross the Steele Bridge (about 15 m long)



After another 20 m find the "Historic Military 'Steele' Bridge" (8 m on your right).



This large steel and timber bridge spans Berowra Creek north of Fishponds. The creek is fairly wide at this point and the bridge provides a great view of the sandstone overhangs along the creek's edge. The bridge was commissioned in 1965 to allow access for fire trucks. The bridge was designed by Major General Sir Clive Steele in 1942. Bridges of this type were critical during the WWII South West Pacific campaigns. The bridge is designed on the Warren truss style and is one of only 4 'Steele' bridges still in use in NSW.



After another 15 m find the "Tunks Ridge Rest Area" (15 m on your left).



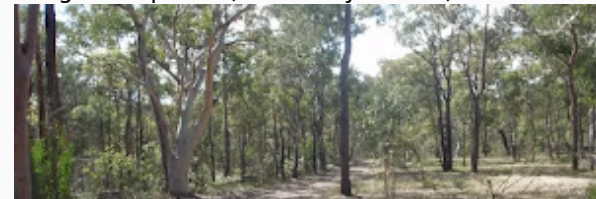
Tunks Ridge Rest Area is a large, shady and gently sloping campsite at the junction of three management trails. There is no water or other facilities (you will need to carry your own in). A sign at the top of the campsite reminds campers that there is a one night limit and that it is a fuel stove only area (no campfires). Please note that the composting toilet has been removed and no longer available.



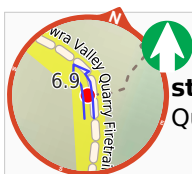
After another 690 m come to the viewpoint (60 m on your left).



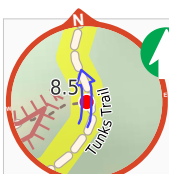
After another 310 m find the "Top of Galston Gorge Campsite" (20 m on your left).



This campsite can be found on the Great North Walk, off the service trail just before it descends into Galston Gorge (when coming from the south). There is plenty of room for a group of tents, however there is no available water or facilities. Although this is an official campsite for the Great North Walk, there are some threatened species in the area, therefore Tunks Ridge Reserve (1.4km South) would make a better alternative, with better facilities.



After another 770 m **continue straight**, to head along Berowra Valley Quarry Firetrail.



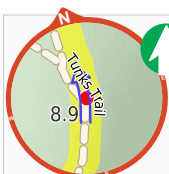
Continue straight, to head along Helipad Firetrail.



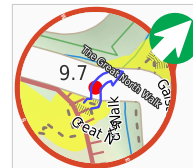
At the intersection of Tunks Trail & Helipad Firetrail **turn right** (a walking track).



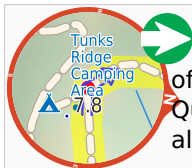
After another 860 m **continue straight**, to head along Berowra Valley Quarry Firetrail.



After another 400 m (at the intersection of Helipad Firetrail & Tunks Trail) **continue straight**, to head along Tunks Trail.



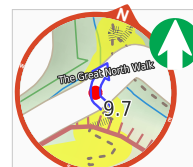
After another 490 m **veer right**.



After another 80 m (at the intersection of Helipad Firetrail & Berowra Valley Quarry Firetrail) **turn right**, to head along Helipad Firetrail.



After another 20 m come to the "Tunks Ridge Camping Area" (25 m on your left). This is a free campsite.



After another 6 m **continue straight**.



After another 8 m cross the stepping stones (about 15 m long)



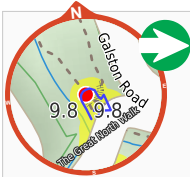
After another 20 m cross the stepping stones. This is flood prone; never cross flooded waterways.



Veer left.



After another 20 m head up the 21 rock steps (about 25 m long)



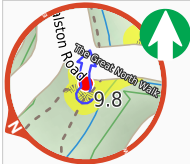
Turn right.



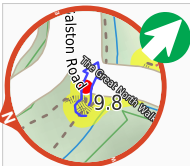
Then head up the 14 rock steps (about 15 m long)



Veer left.



After another 5 m **continue straight.**



After another 9 m **veer right.**



After another 15 m come to a car park.



The end.



"Galston Gorge track head".



Galston Gorge track head is located at a small car park on the eastern side of Berowra Creek, near the bottom of the gorge on Galston Road. This track head is a good access point for those wanting to do sections of the Great North Walk and is well signposted. Keep an eye open for the local chickens.