




Faulconbridge to Springwood via Sassafras Gully (Dharug & Gundungurra Country)

 2 h 30 min to 3 h

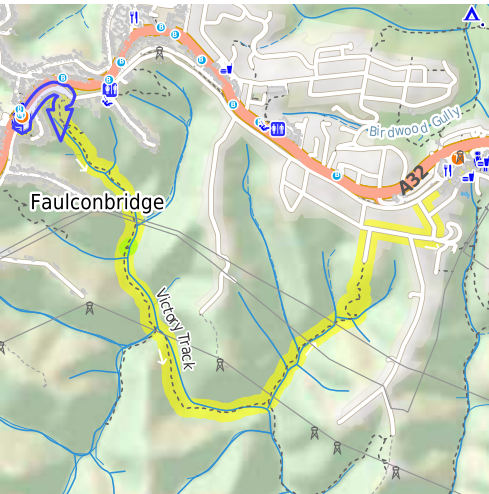
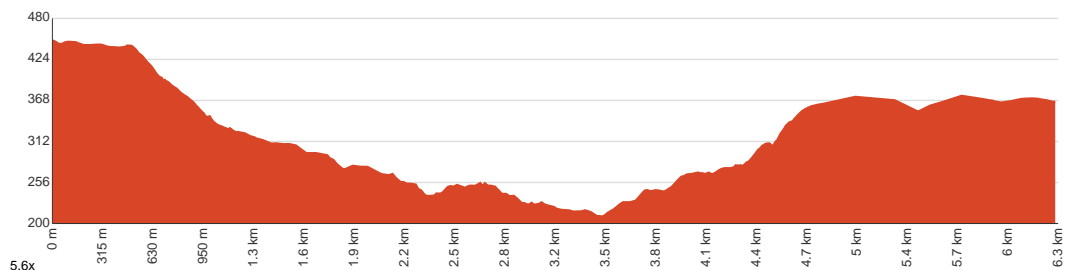

6.3 km
One way


↑ 259 m
↓ 343 m


Hard track



This is an enjoyable walk through the valleys joining Faulconbridge and Springwood. Using the Victory and Sassafras Gully tracks, the walk stays close to water as it descends into the valley, returning up through the changing vegetation. Let us begin by acknowledging the Dharug & Gundungurra people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



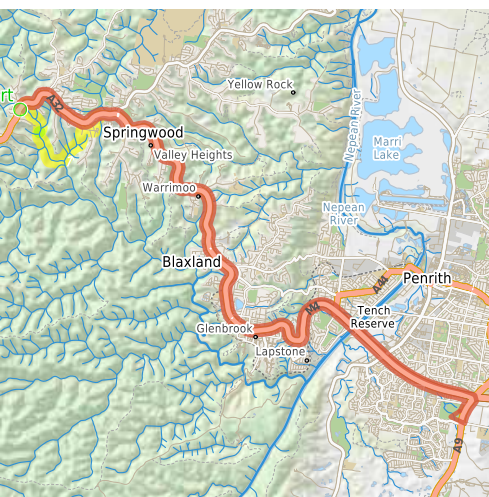
Class 4 of 6

Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely

Quality of track	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
Gradient	Very steep (4/6)
Signage	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities (such as cliffs not fenced, significant creeks not bridged) (4/6)
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

Getting to the start: From

- Turn on to then drive for 6 m
- Turn left and drive for another 50 m
- Turn left and drive for another 80 m
- Turn left onto The Northern Road, A9 and drive for another 640 m
- Keep left onto Western Motorway Onramp, M4 and drive for another 24.6 km



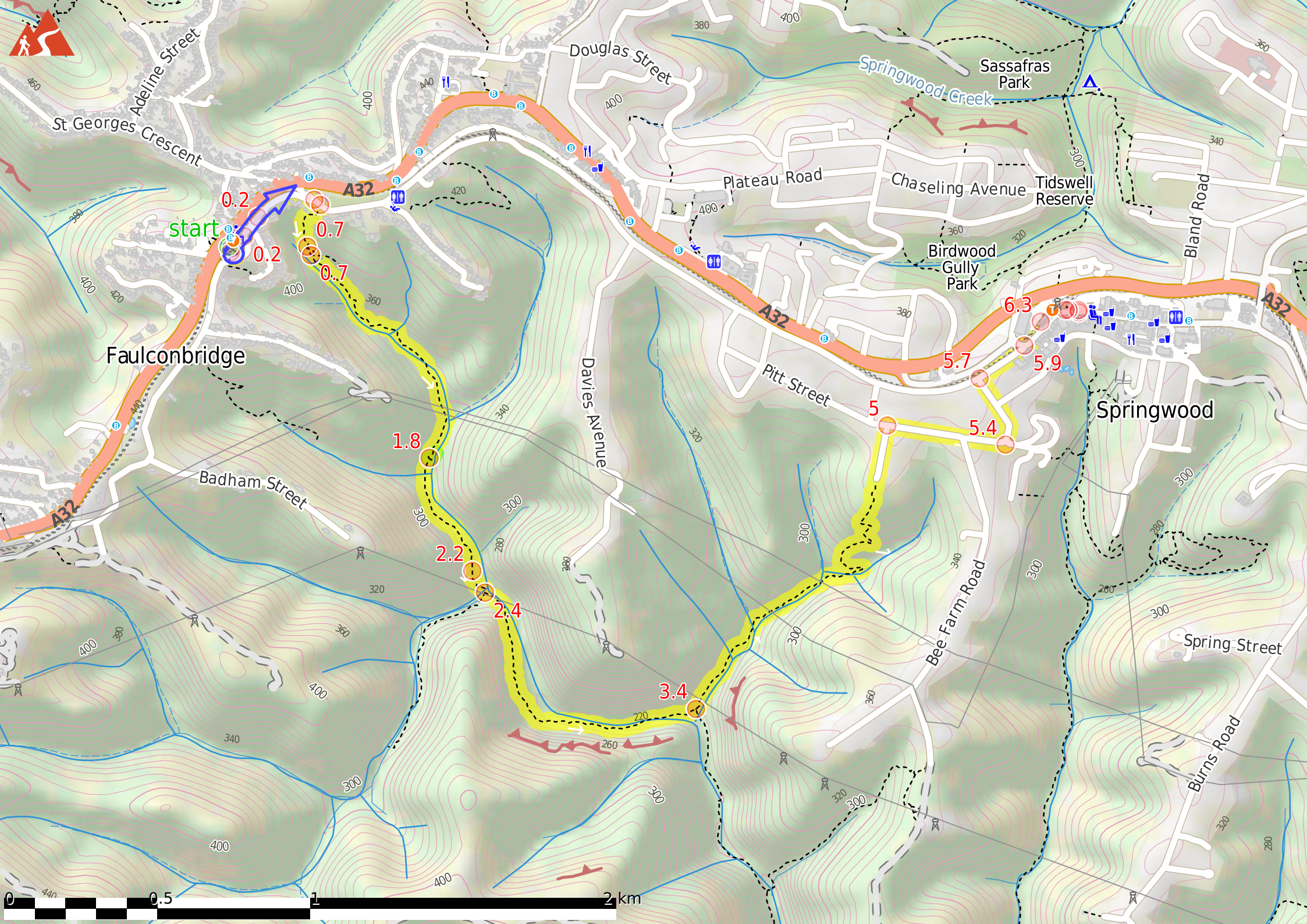
Before you start any journey ensure you;

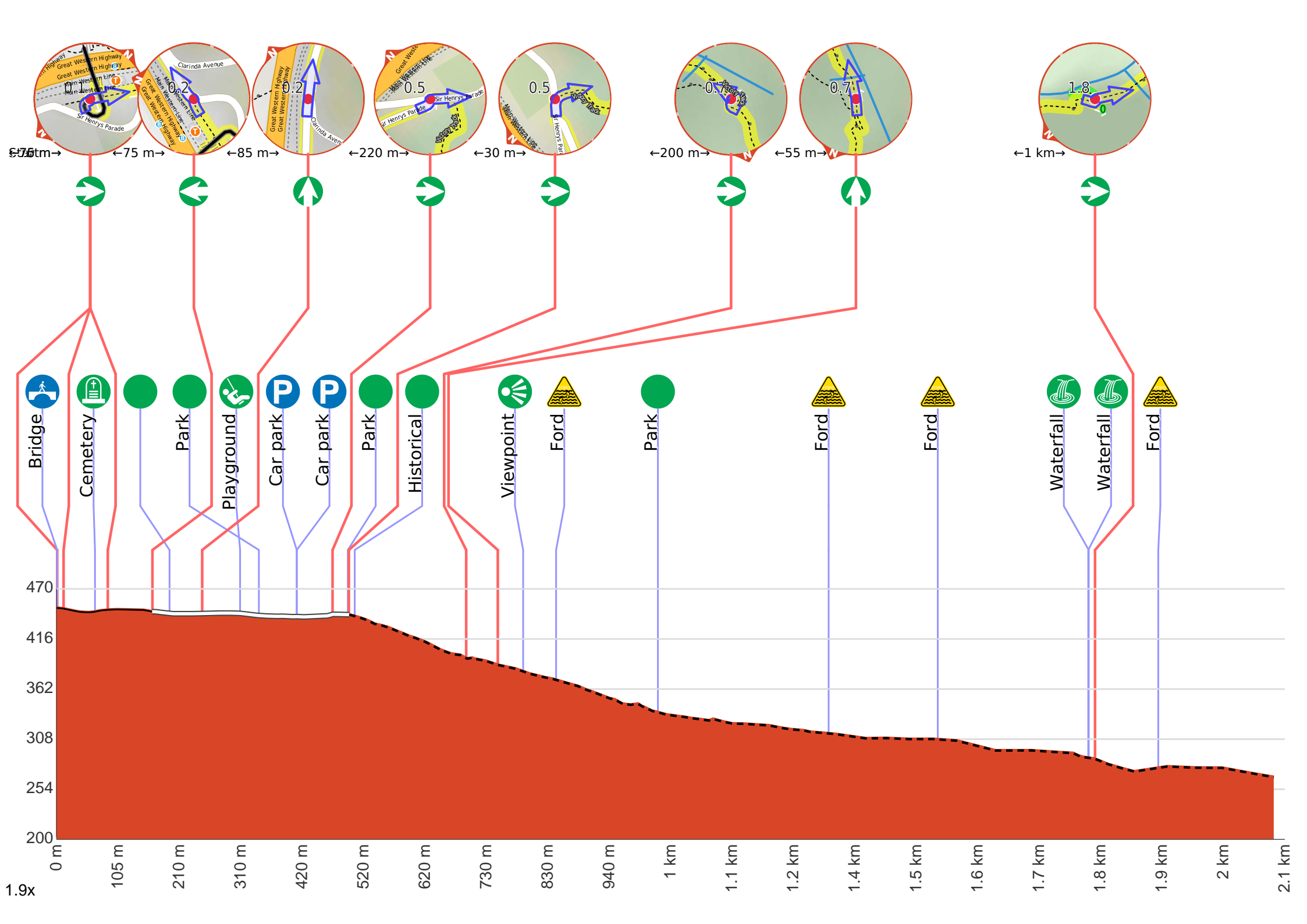
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are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

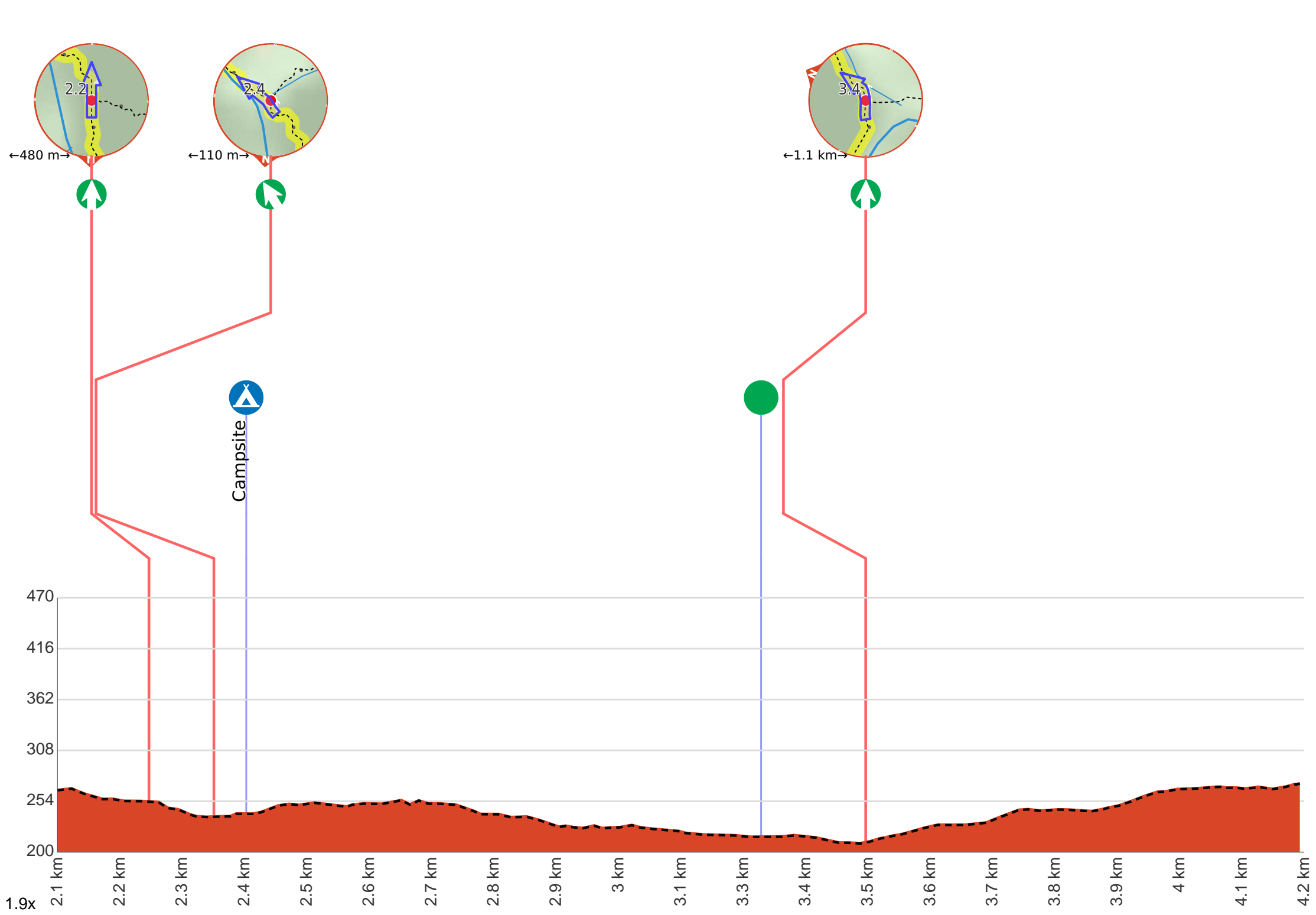
If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

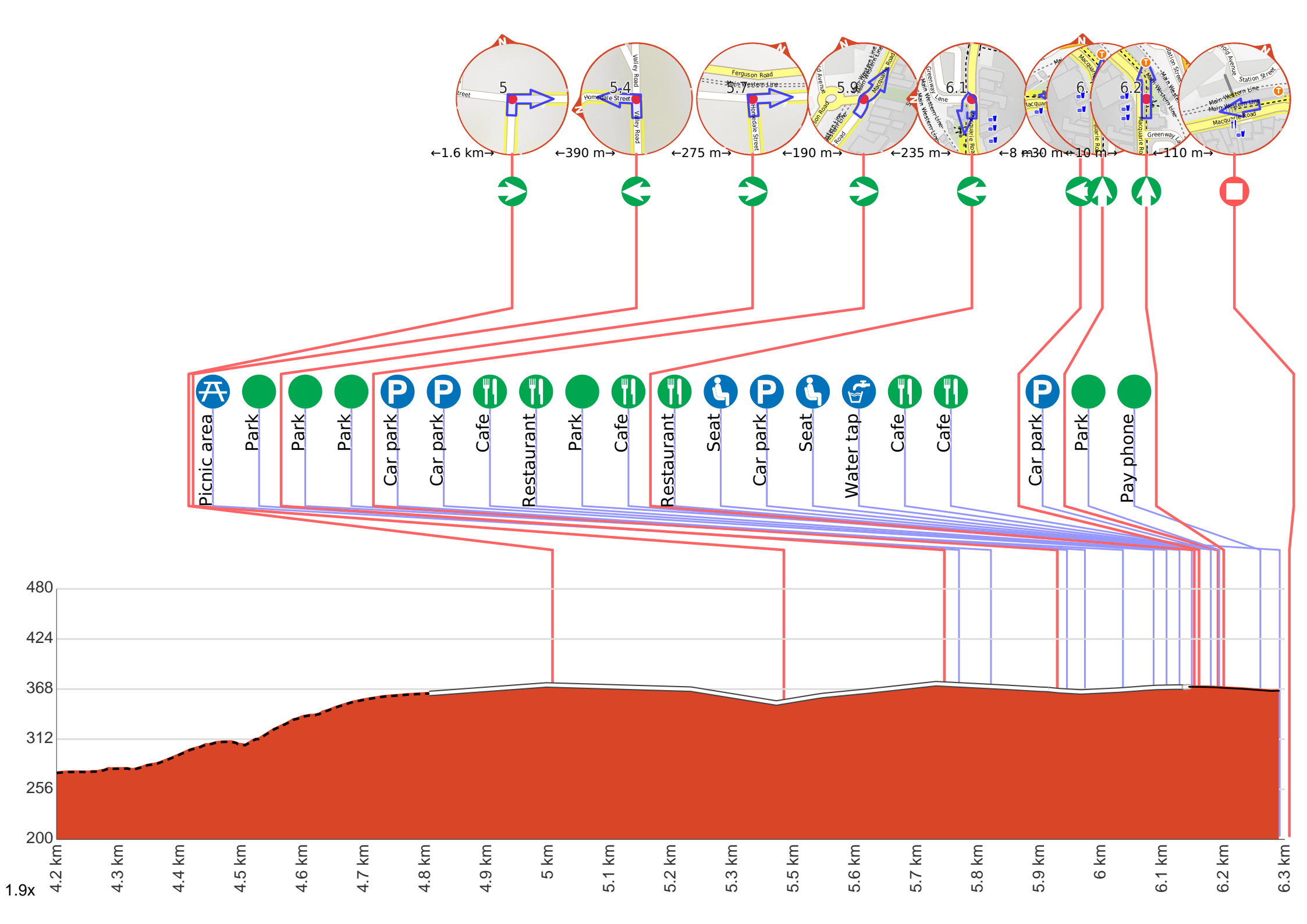
Share
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com.au/CIDLUB)
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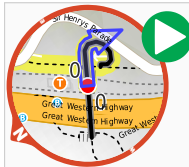








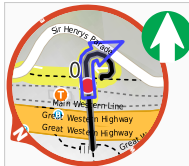
Getting started: From the top of Faulconbridge Station, the walk heads off the station overpass to the bushland side of the station (if you come to a car park, you have gone to the wrong side of the station). The walk then keeps the rail line on the left as it follows the footpath down to the road. After a while, the walk comes to an intersection with Sir Henrys Pde, opposite house number 10.



Start.



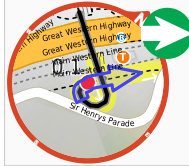
Then cross the Centenary Bridge (about 85 m long)



Continue straight.



After another 55 m pass the "Faulconbridge Cemetery" (15 m on your left).



After another 20 m **turn right.**



After another 105 m find the "Faulconbridge" (20 m on your left).

Faulconbridge, in the Blue Mountains, New South Wales, was named after the maiden name of Sir Henry Parkes' mother. Faulconbridge sits on the Great Western Highway and is surrounded by valleys of lush bushland. This picturesque town was a home, and final resting place, for Sir Henry Parkes', heralded as the 'Father of Federation'. Faulconbridge was originally explored by non-indigenous Australians in 1813, by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson who were searching for a route over the Blue Mountains .



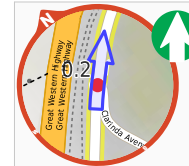
After another 150 m pass the "Browett Park" (190 m on your left).



Turn left.



After another 150 m pass the playground (180 m on your left).



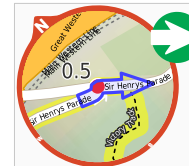
Continue straight.



After another 160 m pass the car park (80 m on your left).



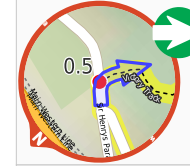
Then pass the car park (100 m on your left).



After another 60 m **turn right.**



After another 25 m pass the "Corridor of Oaks Park" (25 m on your left).



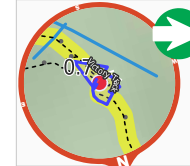
After another 2 m **turn right.**



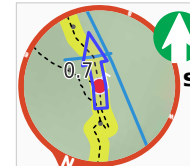
After another 10 m find the "Victory Track" (8 m on your right).



The Victory Track is more formally known as the 'Sir Henry Parkes Victory Track' and is called the 'Victoria Track' in many guide books. The track starts near Sir Henry Parkes' grave in Faulconbridge and leads to Sassafrass Gully Creek. Sir Henry Parkes (1815-1896) was a politician and journalist, born in England. He is considered to be the 'Father of Federation' for Australia, although he died of natural causes 5 years before Australia's federation. Parkes was the premier of New South Wales five times. The town Parkes was named in his honour. Parkes would sometime write under the pseudonym 'Faulconbridge' (his mother's maiden name) for the Sydney Morning Herald and other papers and Faulconbridge (the township) was named after his mother when Parkes purchased 600 acres in 1877.



After another 190 m **turn right.**



After another 55 m **continue straight.**



After another 45 m come to the viewpoint (10 m on your left).



After another 55 m cross the ford.



After another 175 m pass the "Corridor of Oaks Park" (245 m on your left).



After another 290 m cross the ford.



After another 185 m cross the ford.



After another 255 m pass the "Clarinda Falls" (15 m on your left).

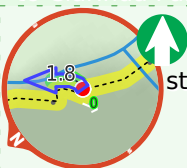


Then find the "Clarinda Falls" (8 m on your left).

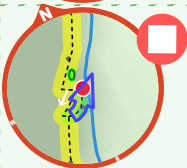


Clarinda Falls is a charming waterfall on Sassafras Creek. The water cascades over a near-vertical wall, into a sandy pool below. The falls are signposted from the main track and provide a nice cool detour, especially on warmer days. The falls are named for the first wife of Sir Henry Parkes, 'Father of Australian Federation'.

Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to Clarinda Falls.



To start this optional side trip continue straight here. **Start.**



After another 35 m come to the end.



"Clarinda Falls".



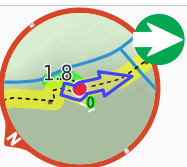
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Turn around and retrace your steps back the 35 m to the main route.



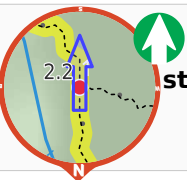
Back at the main route turn left and follow on from the 1.8 km waypoint.



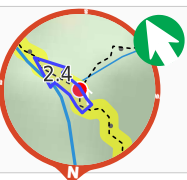
After another 10 m **turn right**.



After another 110 m cross the ford.



After another 370 m **continue straight**.



After another 110 m **veer left**.



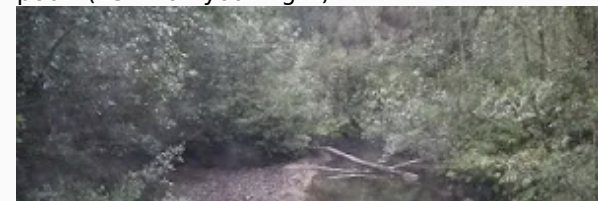
After another 55 m find the "Victory Track camping area" (8 m on your right).



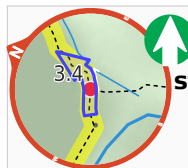
Victory Track camping area is a fairly large, informal camping place at the junction of Sassafras and Numantia Creeks. The clearing is in a moist section of forest with plenty of shade. Water from the creek should be treated before use.



After another 860 m find the "Victory Track pool" (15 m on your right).



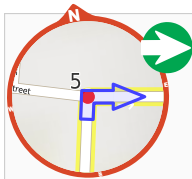
The Victory Track pool is an unofficially-named pond in Sassafras Creek. The pond is deep in parts but not adequate for a swim. It does, however, offer a chance to rest and gaze over the water. There is a small sandy beach, some moss-covered rocks and a lovely grove of Sassafras trees around the pool. This is a nice spot to stop, catch your breath and soak up your surroundings.



After another 175 m **continue straight**.



After another 1.4 km pass the sign (on your left).



After another 205 m **turn right**.



After another 245 m **continue straight**.



After another 145 m **turn left**.



After another 350 m find the "Picnic Point" (190 m on your right).



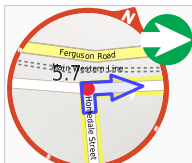
Picnic Point, in Springwood, Blue Mountains, is a quiet, grassy clearing tucked behind the houses above Magdala Creek. The area has a gazebo, picnic table and water tank (water needs to be treated). The clearing has a track leading down to many popular walks, with Lawson's Lookout and Fairy Dell Reserves nearby.



Then pass the "Fairy Dell Reserve" (230 m on your right).



Continue straight.



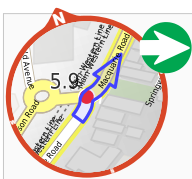
After another 115 m **turn right**.



After another 305 m pass the "Birdwood Gully Park" (180 m on your left).



Then pass the "Rest Park" (25 m on your right).



Turn right.



After another 45 m pass the car park (45 m on your left).



After another 115 m pass the car park (45 m on your left).



After another 20 m pass the "The Baker's Wife - Juicery & Salad Bar" (15 m on your right).



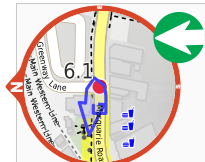
After another 20 m pass the "Springwood Thai Kitchen" (15 m on your right).



After another 170 m pass the "Tidswell Reserve" (215 m on your left).



Then pass the "DHL Ristretto" (20 m on your right).



After another 4 m **turn left**.



After another 40 m pass the "Bunker" (190 m on your right).



Then pass a seat (60 m on your right).



Then pass the car park (50 m on your right).



Then pass a seat (70 m on your right).



Then pass the water tap (85 m on your right).



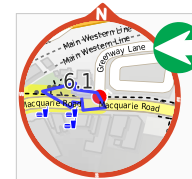
Then pass the "2 Blondes Cafe" (105 m on your right).



Then pass the "Michel's Patisserie" (115 m on your right).



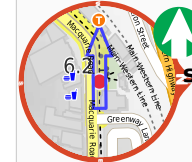
About 230 m past the end is a car park.



Turn left.



After another 20 m pass the car park (5 m on your right).



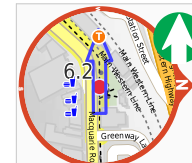
After another 10 m **continue straight**.



Then pass the "Manners Park" (on your right).



After another 70 m pass the pay phone (on your right).



Continue straight.



About 170 m past the end is "Fairy Dell Reserve".



Then find the "Springwood" (on your right). Springwood, along the Great Western Highway, is the second largest town in the Blue Mountains. Springwood also takes the title for the oldest railway station in the Blue Mountains. There are a variety of shops in Springwood, with quite a few cafes, bakeries and two historic hotels. Springwood was named by Governor Macquarie, when his wife and he stopped for water from a deep glen spring, in 1815. It seems aptly named, with many springs and creeks leading away from the ridge at Springwood, including Sassafras Gully, Magdala Creek and Glenbrook Creek.



Then head through the tunnel

