



Great North Walk: Congewai Track Head (East) to Watagan Headquarters

(Darkinyung Country)

 5 h 30 min, 8 h 30 min to 2 days

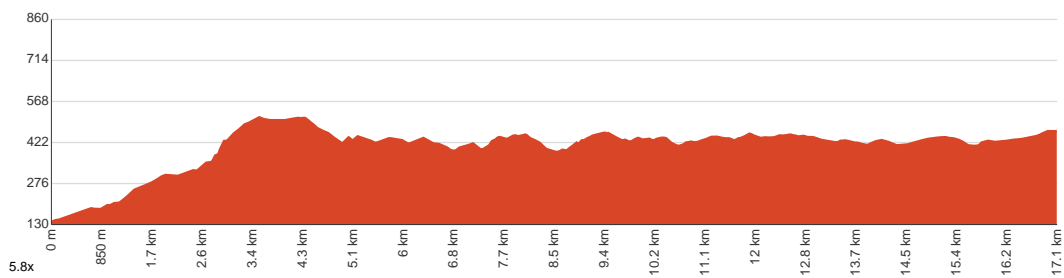
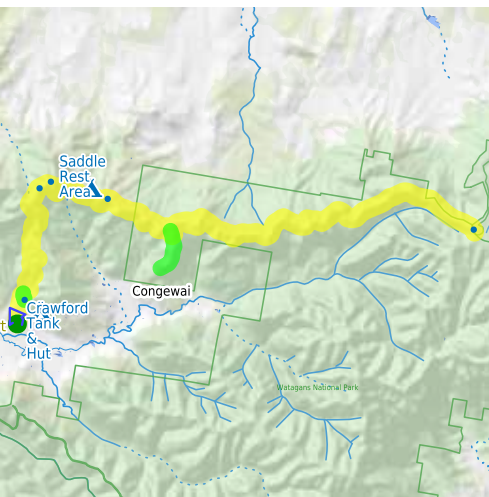

17.1 km
One way


↑ 849 m
↓ 526 m


4
Hard track



This full day walk starts from the Congewai valley trackhead (east) and follows the Great North Walk up into the Watagan National Park. Winding east along Georges road for the most part, this walk also passes many great lookouts and gives the option of a side trip down to the 125r lookout, which provides a great view to the south and nice spot for lunch. The walk finishes at the Watagan Headquarters campsite, which has a fire place and a picnic table. Let us begin by acknowledging the Darkinyung 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, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)

Experience Required

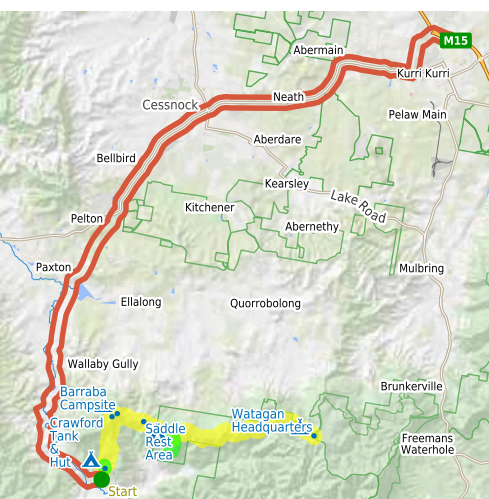
Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)

Weather

Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

Getting to the start: From Hunter Expressway, M15

- Turn on to Hart Road Offramp then drive for 510 m
- Keep left onto Hart Road Offramp and drive for another 790 m
- Keep left onto Hart Road and drive for another 175 m
- Turn slight left onto Sawyers Gully Road and drive for another 1.9 km
- Continue onto Cessnock Road, B68 and drive for another 10.8 km
- Continue onto Wollombi Road and drive for another 360 m
- At roundabout, take exit 2 onto Wollombi Road and drive for another 6.7 km
- Turn left onto Middle Road and drive for another 4 km
- Turn slight left onto Congewai Road and drive for another 12.5 km



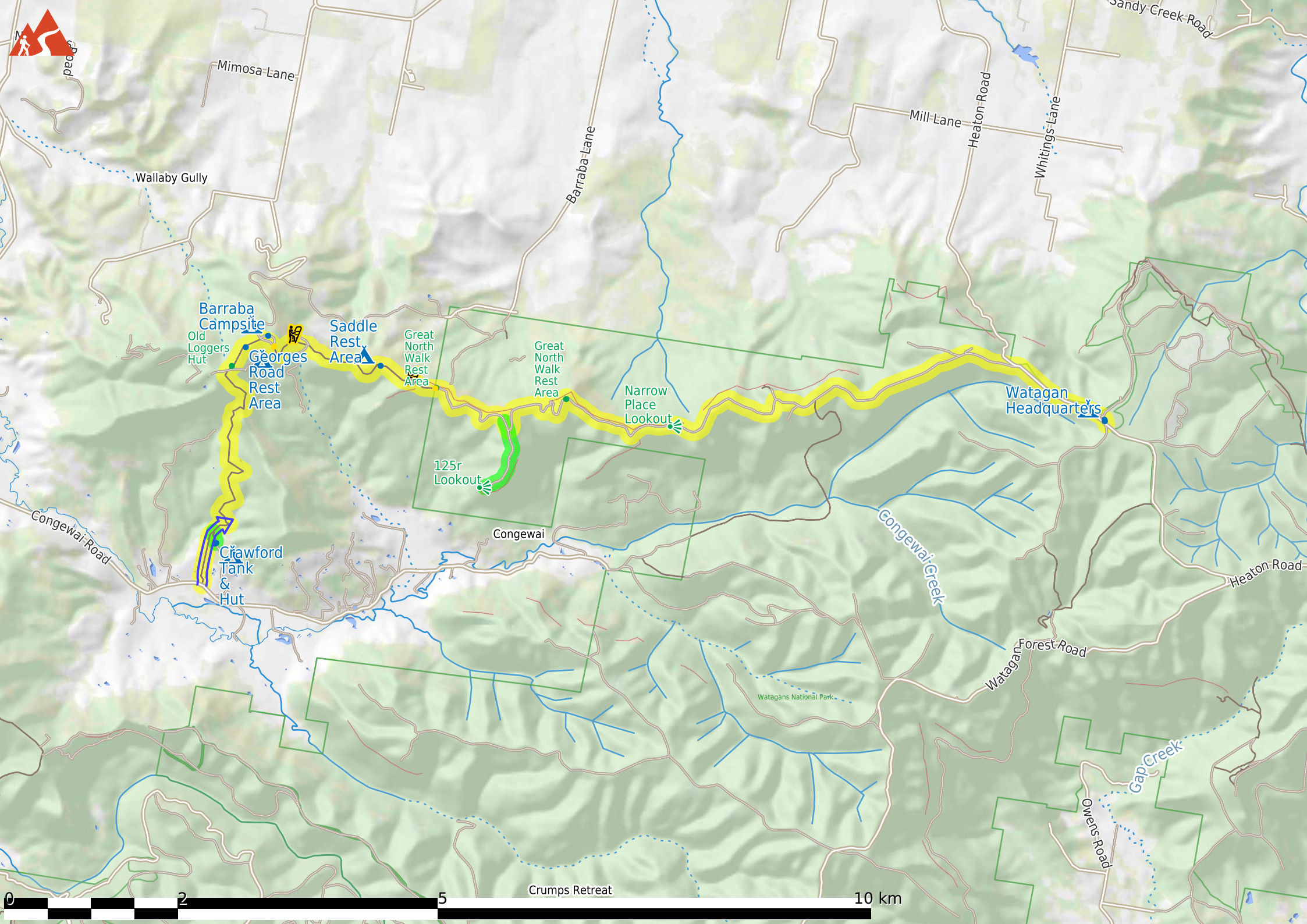
Before you start any journey ensure you;

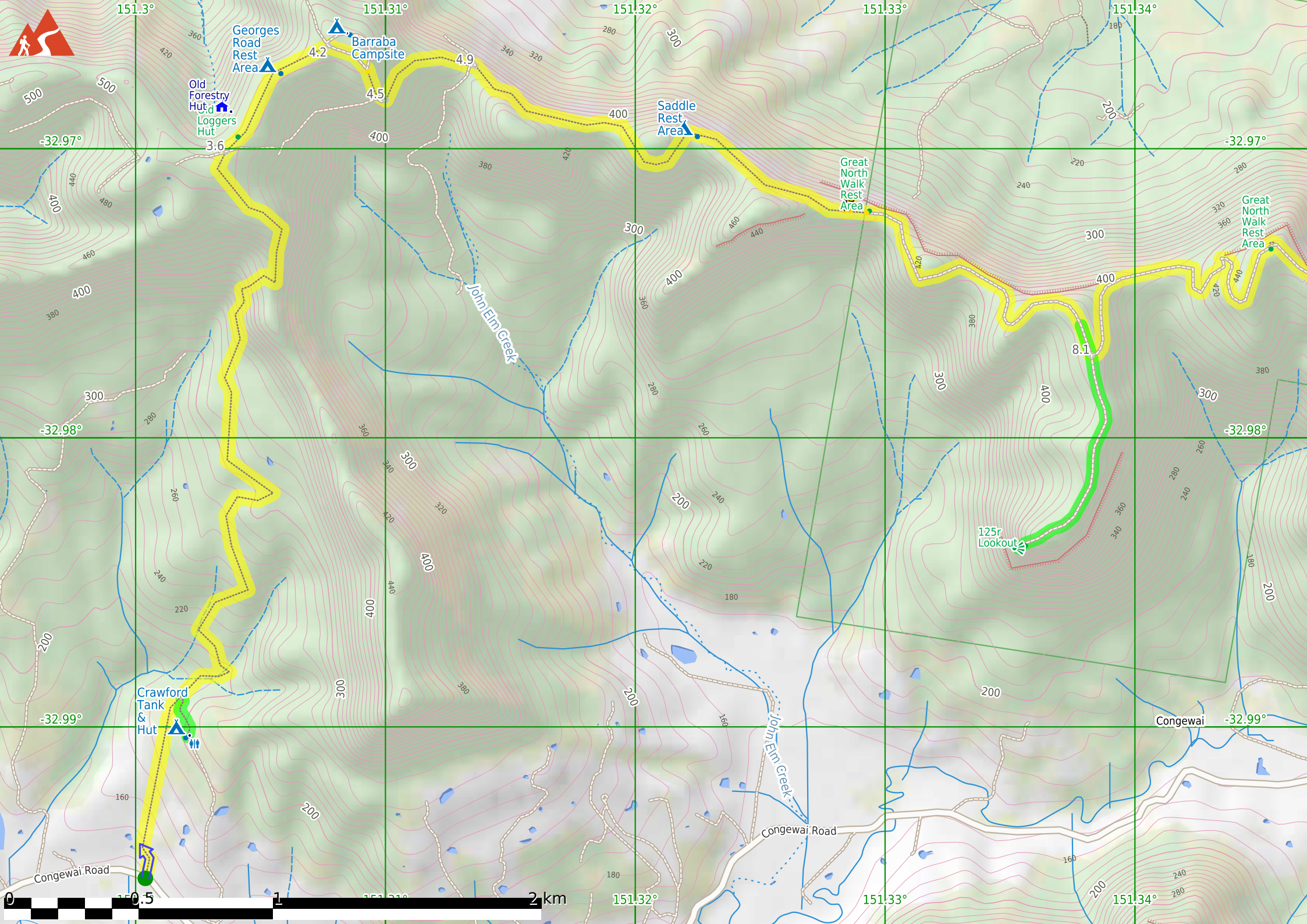
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are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

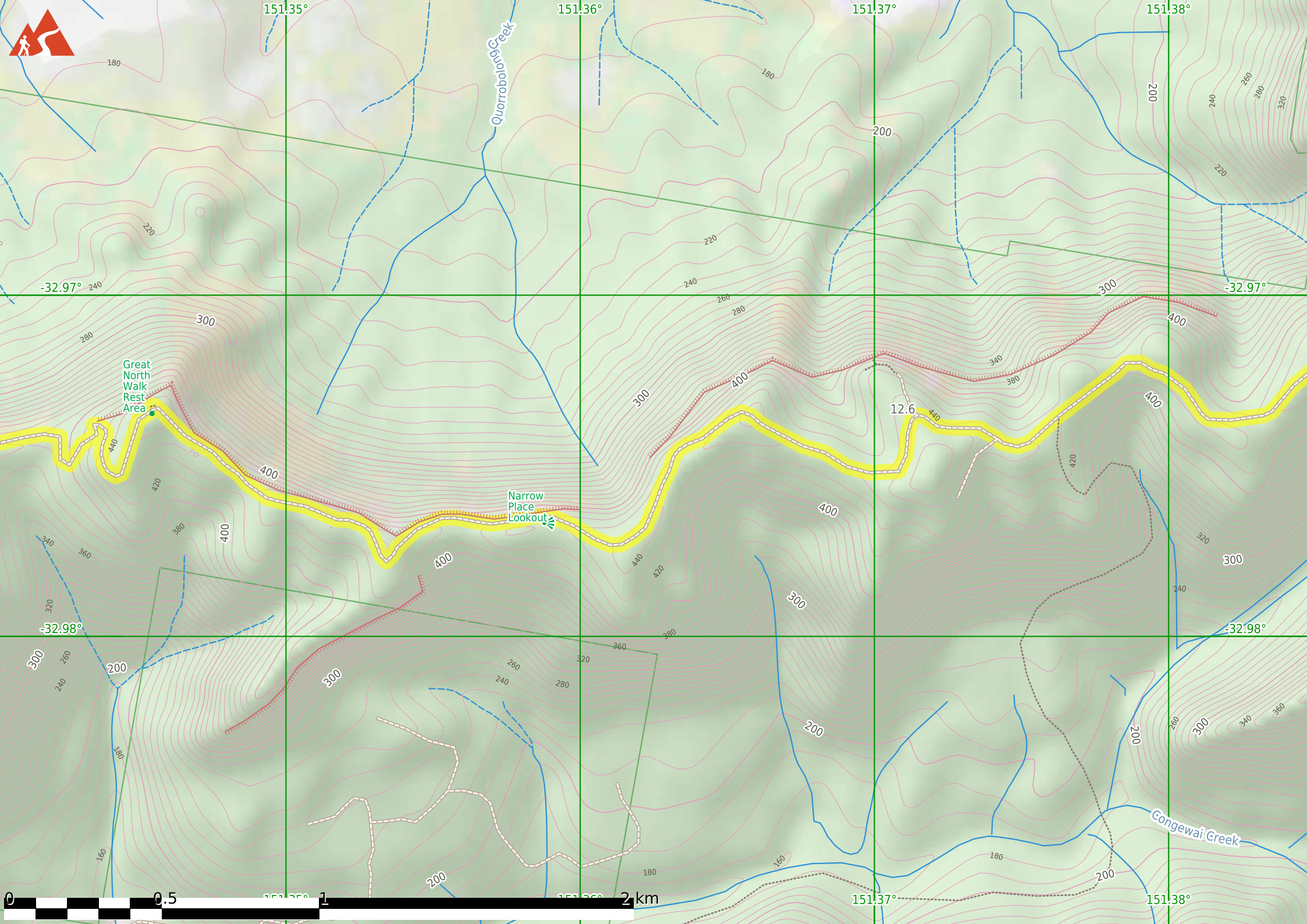
If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

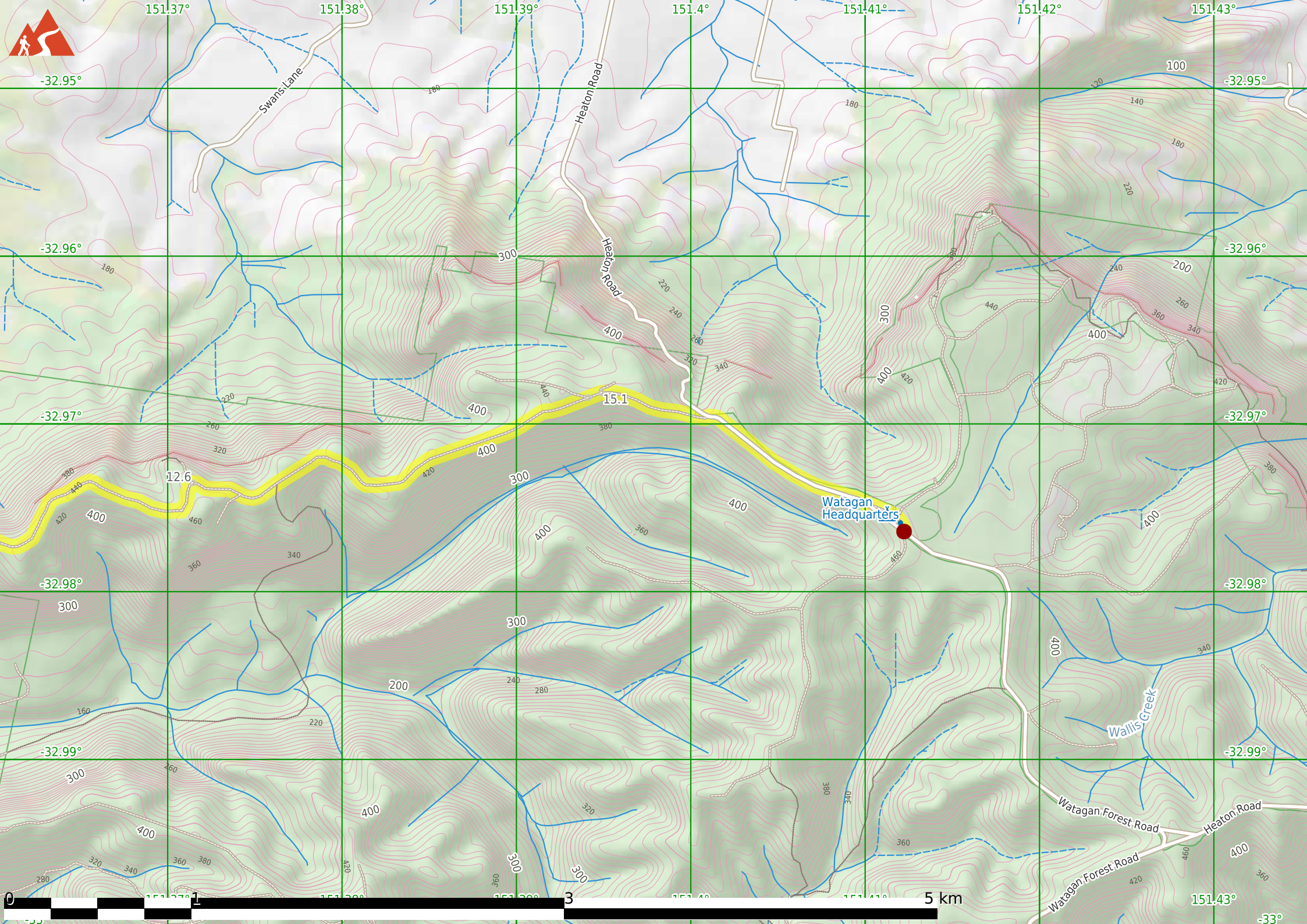
Share
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com/j/4L460I)
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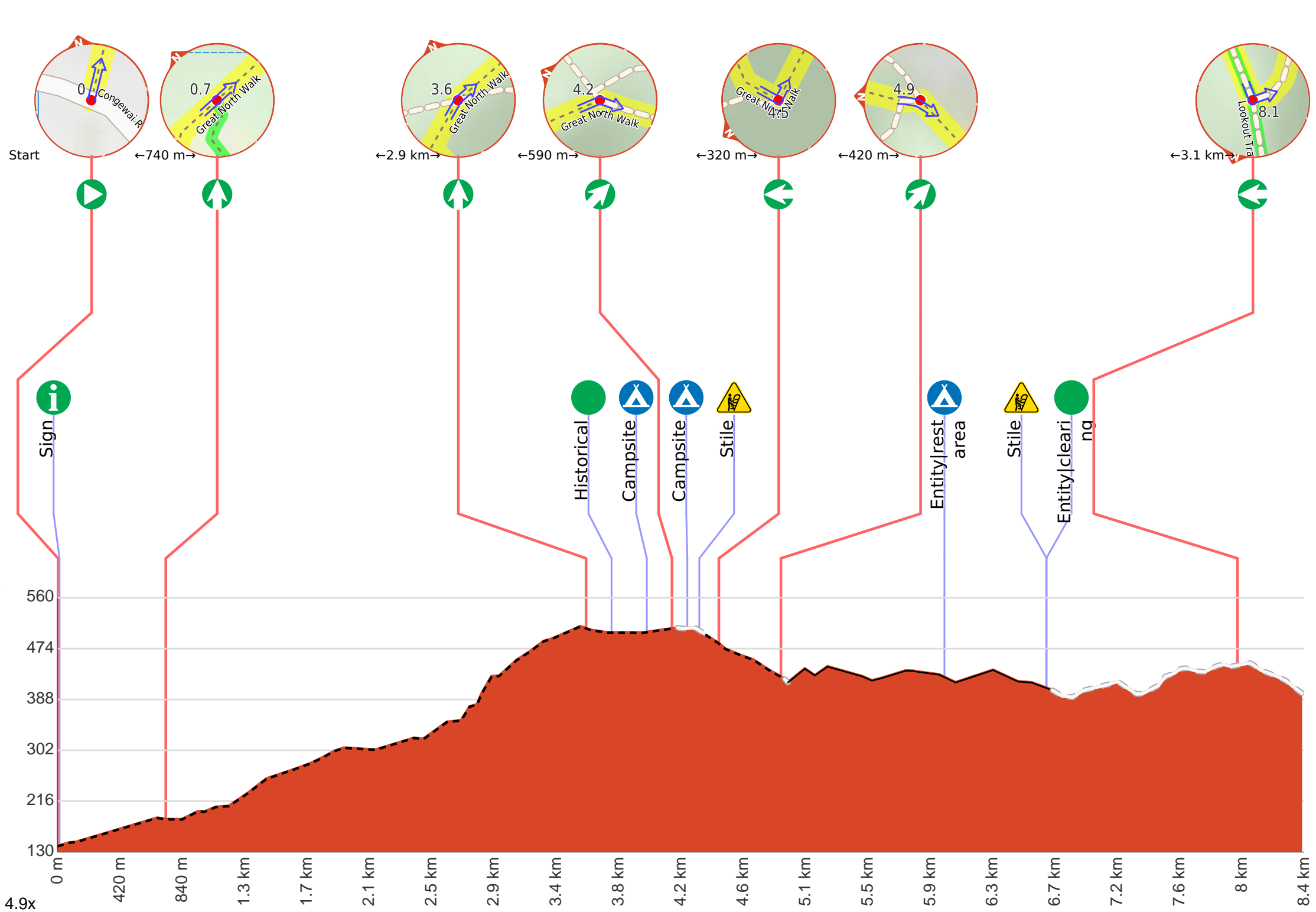


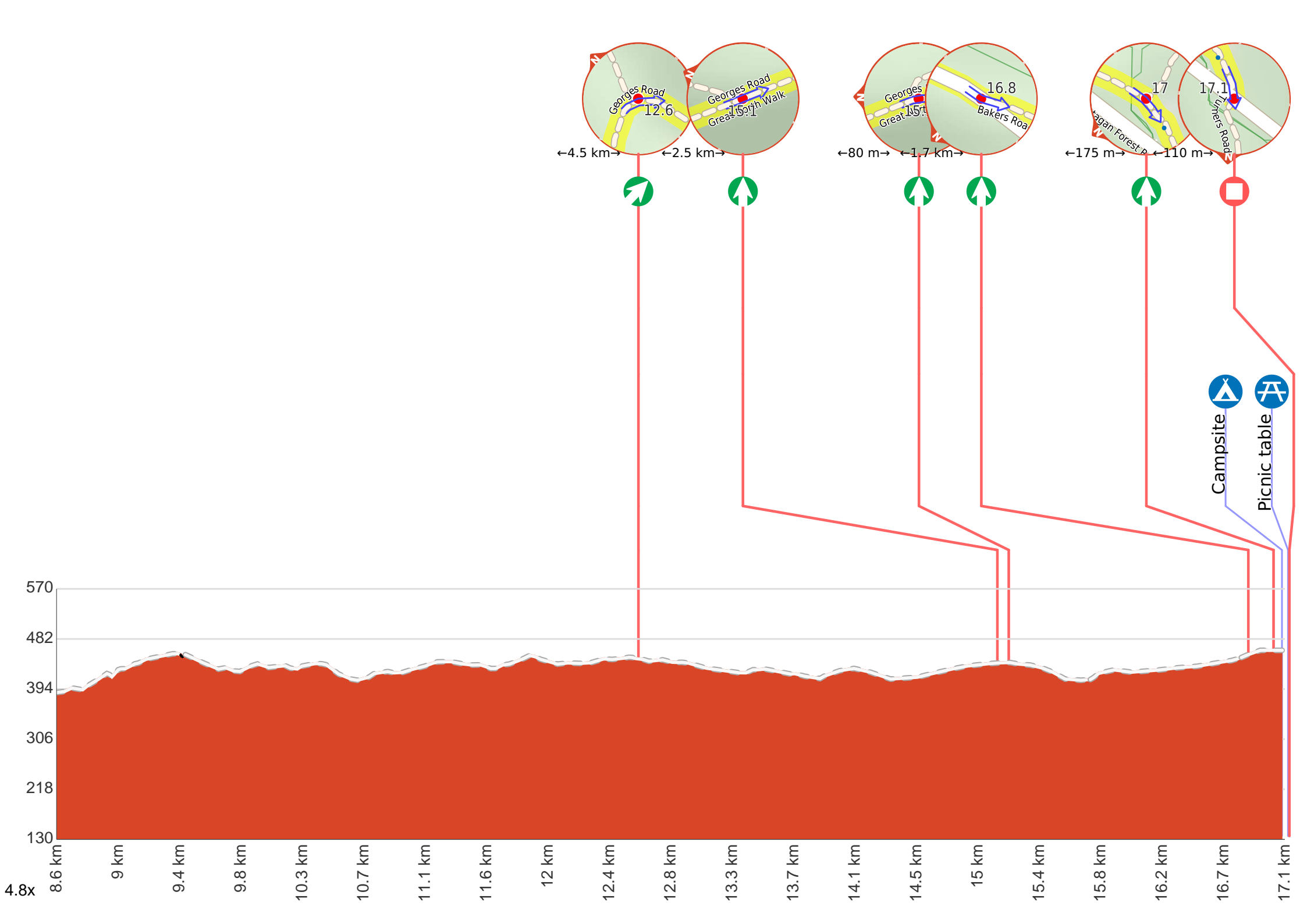




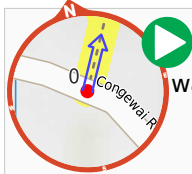








Getting started: From the Congewai Valley east trackhead, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign over the stile. Here the walk follows the track gently uphill through the open forest, leaving the Congewai Valley Road behind.



From the Congewai Road **Start** (a walking track).



Find the Great North Walk at the start.

Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to Crawford Tank and Hut.



To start this optional side trip turn right here. **Start.**



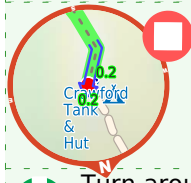
After another 170 m come to "Crawford Tank & Hut".



This clearing is home to a water tank and hut on the 'Brown Muir' farm. The water tank was installed by LPMA in 2011 for walkers undertaking the Great North Walk. This farm and property have been in the owner's family since original land grants. You are welcome to camp here and use the hut as shelter. The hut is a simple structure with an earth floor, some tables, seating and some beds, although best to sleep in your tent. There is an old pit toilet on the side of the clearing. A sign reminds visitors not to light fires, this is a fuel stove only area. Wave and say hello to the owners Jill and Martin if you see them.



About 10 m past the end is a toilet., not equipped with Handwashing basin.



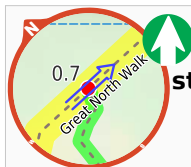
The end.



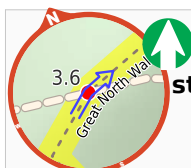
Turn around and retrace your steps back the 170 m to the main route.



Back at the main route turn right and follow on from the 740 m waypoint.



After another 730 m **continue straight.**



After another 2.9 km **continue straight.**



After another 175 m find the "Old Loggers Hut" (8 m on your left).



This Old Hut found beside Georges Rd, is in a state of disrepair. The corrugated iron and wooden hut has a dirt floor and a simple fire place. The hut's condition is poor and would not provide suitable shelter. Just south of the hut is a small dam. The hut was once used by loggers harvesting timber from these hills



After another 240 m find the "Georges Road Rest Area" (20 m on your right).



This campsite is located above Wallaby Gully, off Georges Road. The clearing has a scattering of trees, and has awesome views of Wallaby Gully. There is room for a few tents and small campfire.



After another 170 m **veer right.**



After another 105 m find the "Barraba Campsite" (80 m on your left).



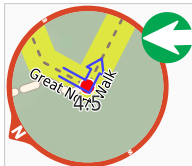
Barraba campsite, near Georges Road on the Great North Walk, is quiet rest area where campers can stay the night and set up a campfire. The small, semi-secluded campsite is surrounded by lovely large grass trees. The campsite has a 'Walker register' book so you can note your intentions. The campsite has no facilities or water.



After another 70 m **continue straight.**



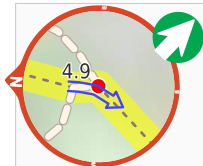
After another 10 m climb over the stile.



After another 135 m **turn left**.



After another 400 m **continue straight**.



After another 20 m **veer right**.



After another 1.1 km find the "Saddle Rest Area" (8 m on your right).



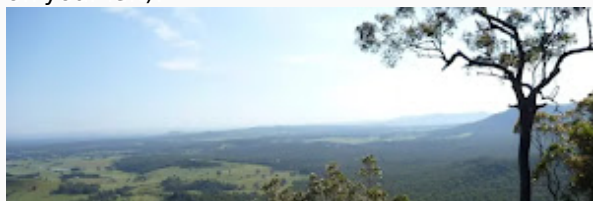
This rest area consists of a clearing on a saddle, with a small dam nearby. There is space for a number of tents and access to water after rain (treat before use).



After another 700 m climb over the stile.



Then find the "Great North Walk Rest Area" (9 m on your left).



Located on George Road, this rest area is situated by a steep, unfenced drop with spectacular views. There is space for a few tents and a small campfire, there are no facilities or water here.

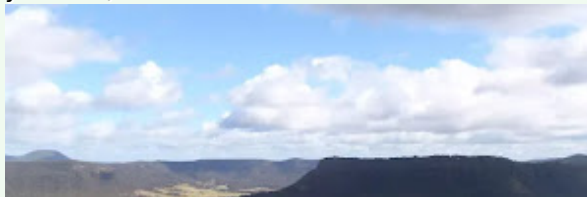
Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to 125r Lookout Rest Area.



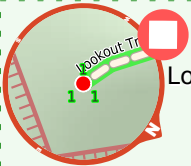
To start this optional side trip continue straight here. from the Lookout Trail **Start** heading along *Lookout Trail* (a vehicle track).



After 870 m find the "125r Lookout" (8 m on your left).



The 125r Lookout, in the Watagan National Park, is located on a track off Georges Road. This unfenced clearing is on a cliff edge and has broad views o over the surrounding valleys. This small clearing has been used as a campsite.



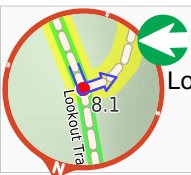
Continue another 20 m to find 125r Lookout at the end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 890 m to the main route.



Back at the main route turn right and follow on from the 8.1 km waypoint.



After another 1.3 km (from the Lookout Trail) **turn left**.



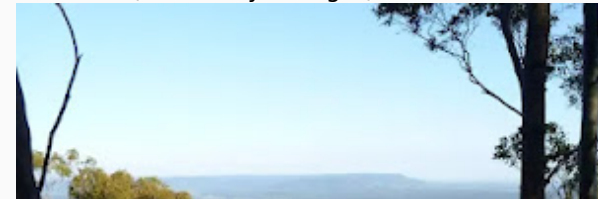
After another 1.4 km find the "Great North Walk Rest Area" (10 m on your right).



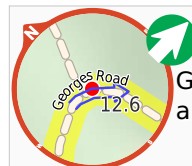
This is a small rest area on the side of Georges Road, providing room to rest up and for a small campfire. There are also some nice views through the trees but be careful as this rest area is near a steep drop.



After another 1.6 km find the "Narrow Place Lookout" (25 m on your right).



Narrow Place Lookout is perched high on an partially-fenced cliff and provides great views north over the farmland and bush towards Cessnock. The lookout is beside a dirt road and a fairly large clearing.



After another 1.5 km (from the Georges Road) **veer right**, to head along Georges Road.



After another 275 m (from the Georges Road) **continue straight**, to head along Georges Road.



After another 240 m (from the Georges Road) **continue straight**, to head along Georges Road.



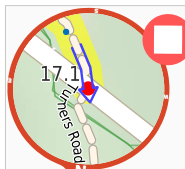
After another 2 km (from the Georges Road) **continue straight**, to head along Georges Road.



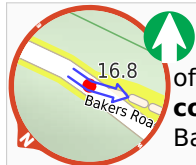
After another 80 m (from the Georges Road) **continue straight**, to head along Georges Road.



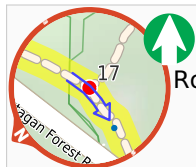
After another 610 m (at the intersection of Watagan Forest Road & Georges Road) **veer right**, to head along Watagan Forest Road (a vehicle track).



After another 9 m come to the end.



After another 1 km (at the intersection of Watagan Forest Road & Bakers Road) **continue straight**, to head along Bakers Road (a vehicle track).



After another 175 m (from the Bakers Road) **continue straight**.



After another 60 m find the "Watagan Headquarters" (on your right).



Watagan Headquarters campsite (aka Forestry HQ) is located in the Heaton State Forest, beside Bakers Rd, near Heaton Rd. This campsite has wood fired barbecues, picnic tables and a garbage bin. The large, flat, cleared area allows plenty of room to pitch a tent. In 2010, a series of vandalism attacks occurred on the water tank, so there is no longer water available.



After another 40 m pass the picnic table (6 m on your right).