



# Great North Walk: Heaton Lookout to Heaton Gap

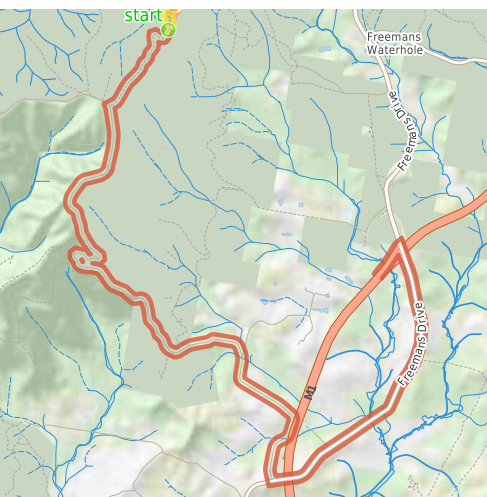
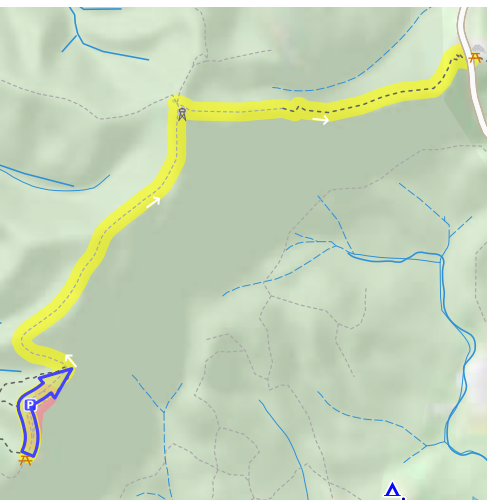
(Awabakal Country)

 1 h 45 min to 2 h

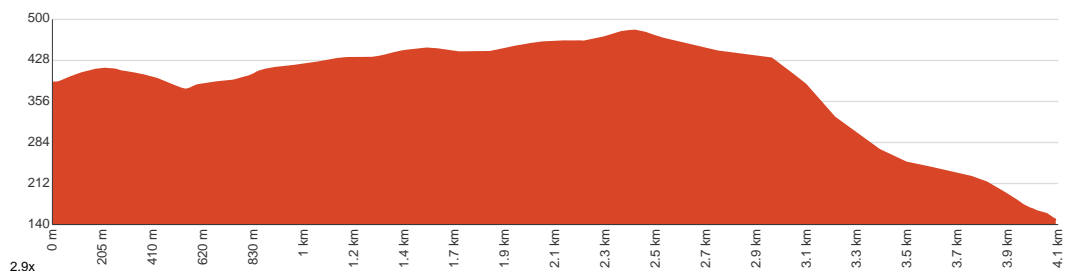
  
4.1 km  
One way

  
↑ 137 m  
↓ 375 m

  
Hard track



This section of the Great North Walk start from grand views at Heaton Lookout in Heaton state forest and leads to the picnic area and motel at Heaton Gap. The first section of this walk follows the dirt road to a communication tower before passing another lookout and expansive valley views. Here you start the steep decent along a rocky track and passing a lovely grove of grass trees. From here you follow a grassy trail and powerlines before the narrow track leads down and across the road at Heaton Gap. Let us begin by acknowledging the Awabakal 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

<b>Quality of track</b>	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
<b>Gradient</b>	Very steep (4/6)
<b>Signage</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (1/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

**Getting to the start:** From Pacific Motorway, M1

- Turn on to Freemans Drive Exit then drive for 510 m
- Keep right and drive for another 45 m
- Turn right onto Freemans Drive and drive for another 4.6 km
- Turn right onto Mount Faulk Road and drive for another 9 km
- Turn right onto Heaton Road and drive for another 1.6 km

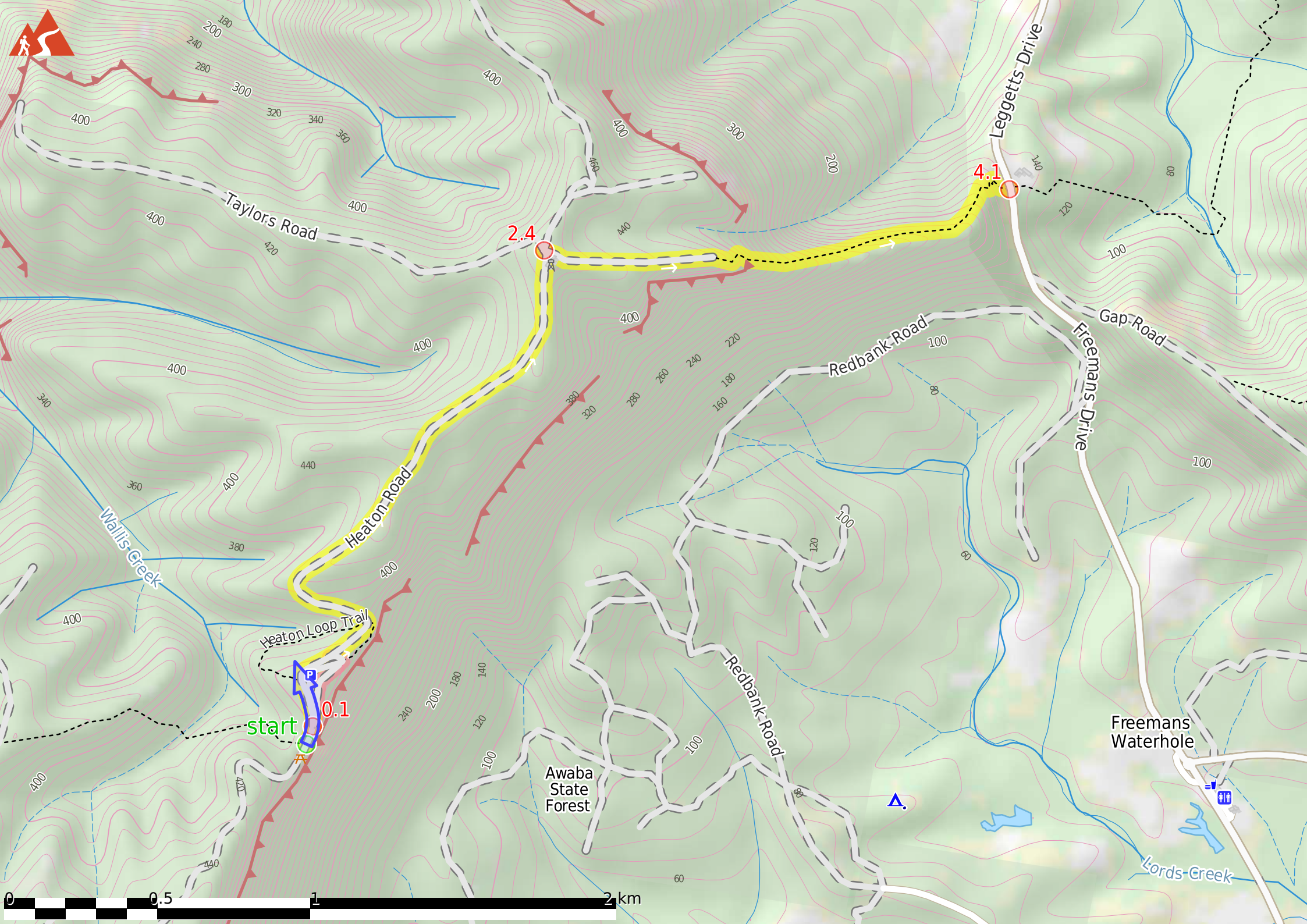
## Before you start any journey ensure you;

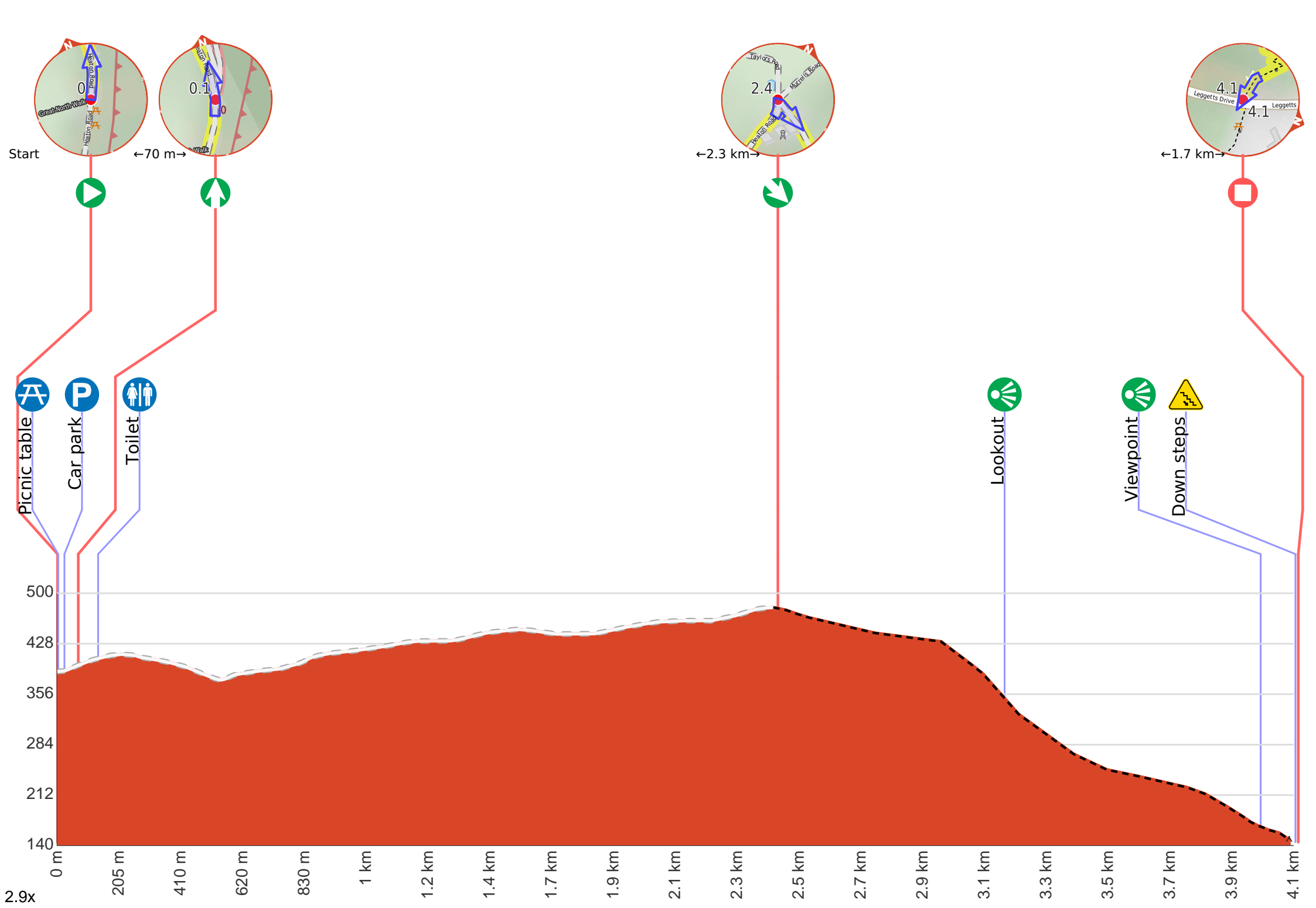
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are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

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

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**Getting started:** From 'Heaton Lookout', this walk follows the 'Heaton Gap' sign gently uphill along the dirt Heaton Rd, past the toilet. After about 250m, the road leads past the 'Heaton Loop Trail' side track, then about 250m later (staying left at the Y-intersection) the road passes another section of the same signposted track as the road bends left, enjoying the views over the clearing (on your right). The road now leads gently uphill for about 1.7km, ignoring a series of side tracks until coming to a clear three-way intersection just past the brick building and fenced communication tower (on the right, and a small dam on the left).

At the intersection of Heaton Road & Great North Walk **Start** heading along Heaton Road (a vehicle track).

There is a picnic table (about 20 m back from the start).

After 20 m to find the car park.

**Start of an alternate route:** Alternate route past Heaton Lookout and picnic area.

To take the alternate route continue straight here. **Start**.

Heaton Lookout (about 60 m back from the start).

Heaton Lookout is one of the larger lookouts located on Heaton Road. This fenced lookout faces south-east. There are wood fired barbecues, picnic tables and a pit toilet. Heaton Lookout is a great place to stop for a snack, and the amazing view feels like a bonus. This lookout was named after Richard Heaton, a timber cutter who came to Australia as a convict. There is a water tank here, due to vandalism in the area this is not a reliable water source.

Find the toilet at the start.

After another 25 m **continue straight**.

After another 55 m head through/around the gate.

After another 190 m come to the "Heaton Lookout" (7 m on your right).

After another 15 m pass the car park (40 m on your left).

After another 260 m **turn left**.

After another 50 m come to the end.

At the end of this alternate route, rejoin the main route.

The alternate route finishes here. Turn sharp right to rejoin the main route at the 380 m waypoint.

After another 45 m **continue straight**, to head along Heaton Road. Keep left.

After another 65 m pass the toilet (8 m on your right).

After another 110 m (at the intersection of Heaton Road & Heaton Loop Trail) **continue straight**, to head along Heaton Road.

The alternate route finishes here. Turn sharp right to rejoin the main route at the 380 m waypoint.

After another 135 m **continue straight**, to head along Heaton Road.

After another 2 km (at the intersection of Taylors Road & Murrells Road) **turn sharp right** (a walking track).

After another 750 m find the "Heaton Gap Lookout" (15 m on your right).

Heaton Gap lookout is a fantastic spot to stop and catch your breath in Heaton State Forest. This unfenced lookout offers exhilarating views over the valleys towards Tuggerah Lake and Lake Macquarie. this unsignposted view, as with many features in the area, was named after Richard Heaton, a timber cutter who came to Australia as a convict.



After another 850 m come to the viewpoint.



After another 115 m head down the wooden steps



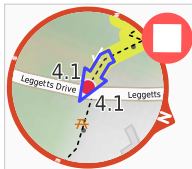
About 15 m past the end is "Watagan Forest Motel".



Watagan Forest Motel is located on Branxton-Toronto Road. This retro-style motel is located right on the Great North Walk. The motel offers six rooms for around \$99 per night - each with a double bed (four rooms also have twin singles), a television, bathroom with shower, air conditioning, and breakfast included. Room service is available. Adjoining the motel is a service station, which also offers dining room meals as well as a small grocery selection (bread, milk, bottled water, rice, pasta, etc), open until 8:30pm daily. A rest area is situated next to the motel, with covered picnic tables and garbage bins. For further information, phone (02)4938 0149.



About 30 m past the end is a picnic table.



The end.