



Devines Hill

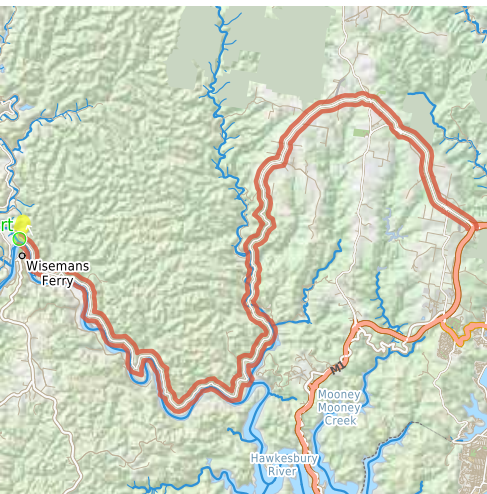
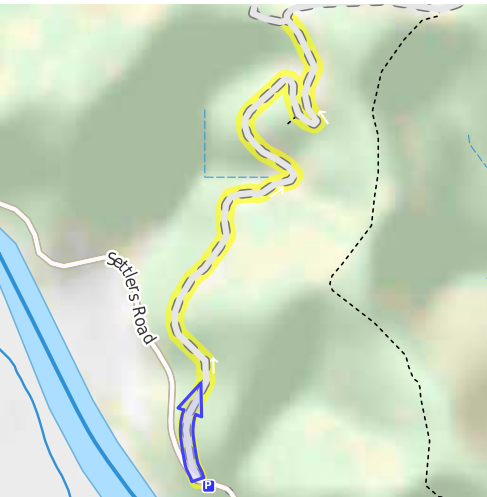
(Darug & Darkinjung Country)

 1 h 45 min to 2 h

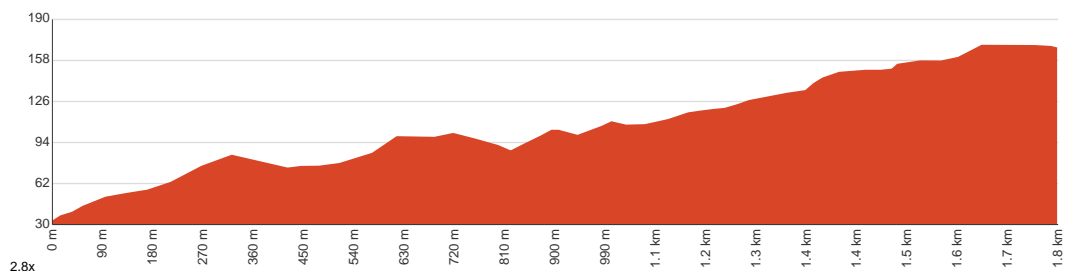

3.6 km
Return


↑ 201 m
↓ 201 m


Moderate track



A great walk with some really nice scenery and plenty of history. This walk follows the well formed Devines Hill ascent portion of the Old Great North Road. The convict built road is impressive and there are good information signs along the trail. The visible remnants of the Old Great North Road include rock cuttings, stone retaining walls, an old quarry site and Hangmans Rock. It is also worth the very short walk down the hill from the start of the walk to have a look at the historic Thomas James bridge. Let us begin by acknowledging the Darug & Darkinjung people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 3 of 6 Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles	
Quality of track	Clear and well formed track or trail (2/6)
Gradient	Short steep hills (3/6)
Signage	Clearly signposted (1/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

Getting to the start: From Peats Ridge Road Offramp

- Turn on to Wisemans Ferry Road Exit then drive for 235 m
- Keep right onto Wisemans Ferry Road Exit and drive for another 35 m
- Turn right onto Wisemans Ferry Road and drive for another 3 km
- Turn right onto George Downes Drive, 33 and drive for another 40 m
- Turn left onto Wisemans Ferry Road and drive for another 53.1 km
- Continue onto Settlers Road and drive for another 620 m

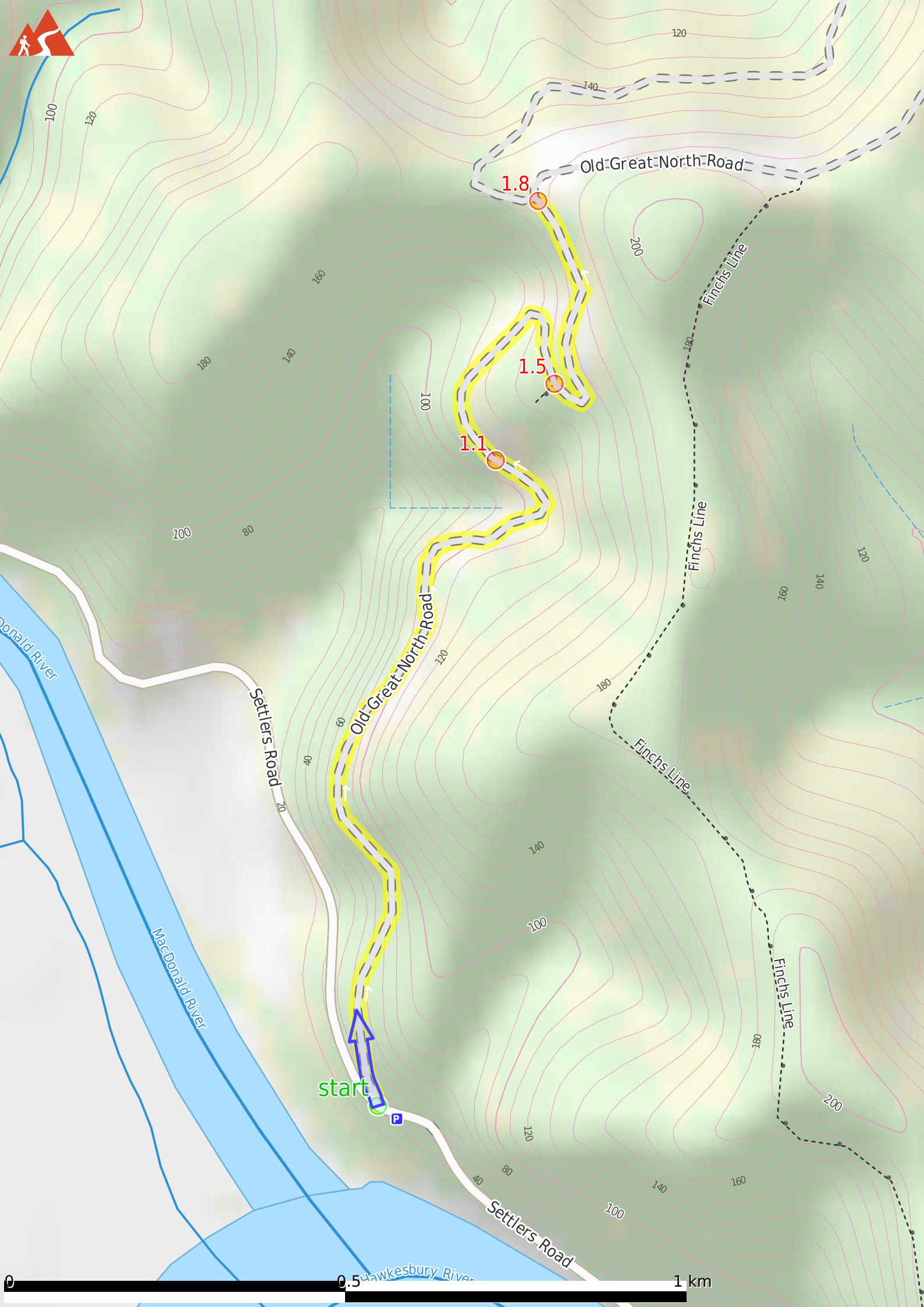
Before you start any journey ensure you;

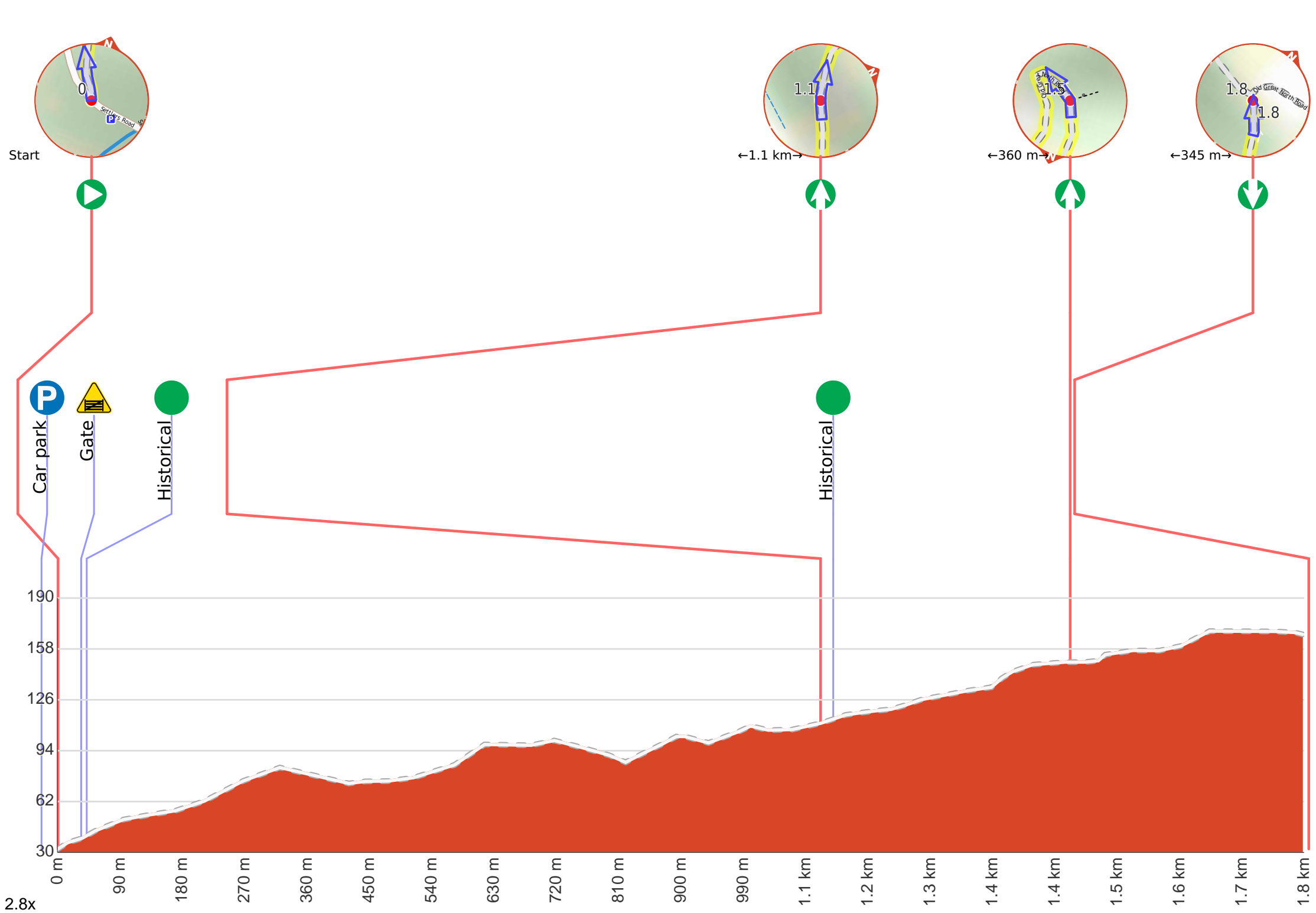
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are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

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

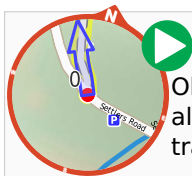
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Getting started: From the car park and intersection on Wisemans Ferry Rd (about 500m west of the car ferry), the walk passes around a gate, passes an information sign, and follows the 'Old Great North Road' up the hill. This section of the walk winds up the hill, passing numerous cuttings and retaining walls built with convict labour. There are several information signs on the way, making the walk more interesting. The walk then arrives at the signposted "Hangman's Rock".



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



There is a car park (about 40 m back from the start).



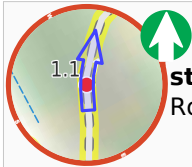
After 55 m head through/around the gate.



After another 8 m find the "Old Great North Road" (on your left).



The historic Great North Road was built using convict labour between 1826 and 1836 (this section south of Wollombi was completed in 1832). The road formed a link between Sydney and the Hunter Valley, including Newcastle. There are visible remnants of the original work in bridges, retaining walls and other structures along the way. The 'Convict Trail Project' has member groups involved in the conservation of historical remnants along the road. The Convict Trail Project and the NPWS have erected information signs at various points to illustrate the history. The Convict Trail Project has an excellent website for further reading.



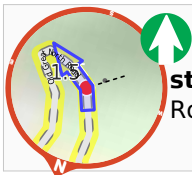
After another 1.1 km **continue straight**, to head along Old Great North Road.



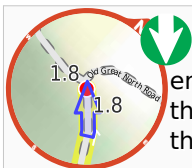
After another 20 m find the "Hangmans Rock" (on your right).



Hangmans Rock is beside the historic Old Great North Road, near Wisemans Ferry, NSW. This beautiful sandstone cave/overhang has some steps and a bench seat cut into it and is part of the history of the convict built OGNR. It is uncertain what purpose the spot served, but stories that convicts were hanged through the hole in the roof of the cave appear unlikely to be true, despite giving a name to the atmospheric spot.



After another 340 m **continue straight**, to head along Old Great North Road.



Continue another 345 m to find the end. Then turn around here and retrace the main route for 1.8 km to get back to the start.



A gate.



About 70 m past the end is "Devines Hill".



Devines Hill is a historically significant area on the Old Great North Road, near present day Wisemans Ferry, NSW. There are substantial remnants visible here, including cuttings, retaining walls and quarry sites. There were 3 main road lines built at different times to climb the hills just north of Wisemans Ferry, starting with Finchs Line to the east, followed by the Devines Hill ascent and then Shepherds Gully, to the west. Information signs in the area provide some interesting historical background and the 'Convict Trail Project' has an excellent website for further reading.