

Coastal Trail

Central Hawke's Bay

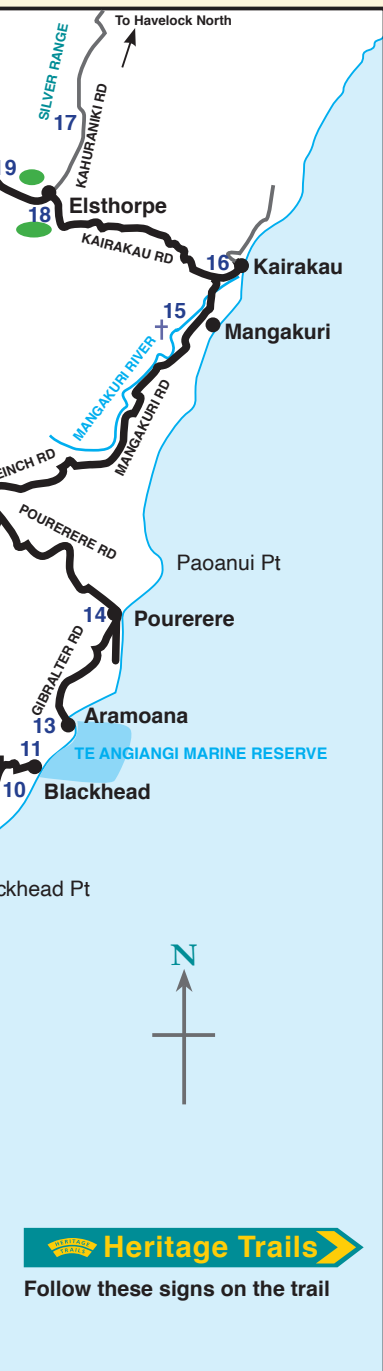


*View of coast looking south over Te Angiangi Marine Reserve
towards Blackhead.
Photo by Survey Services.*


Hawke's Bay

Discover *the Real* New Zealand





Key to Map

Heritage trail itself 

- 1 Wanstead
- 2 Wallingford
- 3 Longest place name
- 4 Cook's Tooth
- 5 Whangaehu
- 6 Porangahau & Church
- 7 Te Paerahi Station
- 8 Porangahau Station & Chapel
- 9 Blackhead Point
- 10 Blackhead Beach & Settlement
- 11 Te Aniangi Marine Reserve
- 12 Omakere
- 13 Aramoana
- 14 Paurerere
- 15 Mangakuri
- 16 Kairakau Beach
- 17 Kahuraniki Road
- 18 Elsthorpe
- 19 Silver Range Lookout
- 20 Horseshoe Lake
- 21 Patangata
- 22 Historic Grave

Pamphlets available from:

hawkesbaytourism.nz

Also refer to DOC pamphlets Te Aniangi Marine Reserve, CHS Reserves and Walkways (may change to HB Reserves).

Driving time of trail approx 4-5 hrs.

Petrol/diesel available at Waipukurau and Waipawa, and from Porangahau until midday Saturday.

 Heritage Trails

Follow these signs on the trail

Introduction to the Coastal Trail of Central Hawke's Bay

This trail leads you through a countryside where once rivers and streams were deep and navigable. Here were swamps, fern, manuka and more bush cover; the hills still rose to well over 300 metres before dropping dramatically to the roar of the sea, with its cliffs, inlets and beaches.

It was along this coast that so many Maori lived, with abundant kaimoana (seafood), land for kumara growing and safe waters for their waka (canoe). The European settlers, who arrived in the mid 1800s to clear the land for farming, had to ford rivers and bring in sheep and cattle along the beaches from the south, while small coastal ships brought in supplies and loaded out the meat and wool.

Then, as the tracks improved to be roads with bridges, access and communications spread from inland centres, and further development ceased for the farming villages that had provided for travellers as well as themselves, their whereabouts are hardly visible today.

The larger stations have been divided up, but there are homesteads and buildings from those earlier days, and some of the charming small churches are still maintained.

Experience the spiritual refreshment of the coast, and discover the outcomes of the visions and dreams of our forbears.

This trail leads in from the south, west and north, and so can be explored in sections, or in a day taking 4-5 hours. The coast is approximately 40 kilometres from SH2.

Get the tide times at the same time as your pamphlet. Start the trail at Porangahau Road, Waipukurau or Racecourse Road, Waipawa on the righthand side past the Abbotslee Tearooms.

1. Wanstead

Phone: Church information
(06) 855 4804

Above the road stands this beautiful little stone church, dedicated in 1957, and financed largely by the McNutt family as a memorial to Samuel and Martha McNutt. It replaced the original of 1888, built on the same site. This eventually wore out having been used as a school in earlier times, and not helped by the 1931 earthquake.



2. Wallingford

After passing an old macrocarpa in the middle of the road, you are in Ormond country. The homestead has been the home of the family since it was built in 1853 by the Hon. J.D. Ormond. It grew over the years as the family expanded, and the extensive sheep and cattle station developed around it. The wool was shipped out from Blackhead and supplies came in that way. By 1862 the village itself needed an accommodation house, two hotels, a store and a blacksmith as by now the creeks between Waipukurau and the coast were bridged. The stables were then used until 1912 as the change over stop for the four-horse carriages on their daily run to the coast. The Church below the school started life as the school. On the right hand side of the road is the family's commemorative stone seat with a plaque.

Eleven kilometres on is the Saleyards Bridge above which a 14 tonne ketch was launched in a flood in 1860, and floated down to Porangahau!

3. Longest Placename in the world

The local Maori people, Ngati Kere, gave the name to this hill to celebrate their ancestor Tamatea Pokai Whenua. He was a famous powerful chief and warrior, who engaged in many fights and raids. In the battle of Matanui nearby his brother was killed. Tamatea remained to grieve, playing his lament on his koauau (flute) on the knoll.

From the layby five kilometres up Wimbledon Rd (SH52), look West to see the historic hill, and see the name and its translation on the signage.

Contact CHB. VIC. on Waipukurau (06) 858-6488 to arrange the Taumata Walk to the hill top.

4. Cook's Tooth

A right turn will take you up Cook's Tooth Road to enjoy the panoramic views along the ridge to Whangaehu Beach. Up the hill is this amazing limestone outcrop, 606 metres above sea level. One explanation of its name may be that Captam Cook suffered an aching tooth when seeing it from out at sea!

5. Whangaehu

This name refers to 'an inlet of turbulent sea and wind'. The whole area is of great significance to Maori, with links to their famous explorer Kupe.

Colonial settlement began in the 1850s with the arrival of three St. Hill brothers, and pioneers Albert and Sarah Lambert, with little son Ocean, born at sea.

McLean's Bush is on the way down to the beach and can be reached by stile over private land. It is one of the few protected bush remnants on the east coast.

(DOC. pamphlet CHB Reserves and Walkways.)

6. Porangahau

The district was originally settled by Tamatea's son Kahungunu, founder of Ngati Kahungunu. The village is home to the Rongomaraeroa Meeting House of 1912. The Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, built in 1890s, is the place to go for photographs of early settlement, along with a display of Scottish events. Painted in the same heritage colours is the restored and refurbished Anglican Church of St Michael and All Angels. It was founded by the Nairn, Hunter, Canning and St Hill families and consecrated in 1880. The cast window, presented by the Cannings, is in memory of Captain Davis Canning who was killed in action against Te Kooti's forces at Ruakitoru. The historic cemetery is well worth a wander. (Directions to locate church keys are in box outside main door.)





7. Te Paerahi Beach

This magnificent area, five kilometres long, is still a traditional source of kaimoana for Maori, whilst providing for golf, claybird shooting, land yachting, recreational fishing and beach and water activities. (Free and paying campsites).

8. Porangahau Station

The land here was taken up 'sight unseen' about 1850 by George Hunter jnr. son of Wellington's first mayor, who landed at Petone Beach in 1840 with his wife and 10 children.

The original homestead burnt down in 1916, replaced in 1920 by Chapelwick, beside the Hunter Chapel of 1878, neither now part of that estate. Access is permitted to the information board on the chapel.

The station's old killing-shed is easily seen on the right hand side further on.

Take Blackhead Road at the next Y junction for 26 kilometres of fascinating coastal country, passing the lookout to Blackhead Point. From the reef the district's wool was taken by bullock or horse dray to surf boats and then out to a coaster, which would have brought in stores. 'Motor lorries' took over in the 1920s. There were also shipwrecks along this coast.

9. Blackhead Point

Blackhead Point, originally Parimahu, is said to be where Mahu, a descendant of Ruawharo, chief tohunga of the Takitimu canoe, was making a long journey from Mahia to Waimarama. But he travelled on for miles and was directed back to Waimarama. The high cliffs where Mahu turned around were known as Parimahu, or Mahu's cliff.

Remains of Moa and Tuatara bones, carbon-dated 1220 AD, were found in nearby middens showing Maori were well established round the coast many centuries ago. They must have been amazed to see Cook tack past in 1769!

10. Blackhead Beach and Settlement

The cover photo shows this dramatic coastline, with Blackhead's cliffs in the distance and the Marine Reserve at low tide. The next photo looks down onto the station's farm buildings and today's settlement. The sale of this coastal land to settlers Coleman, McHardy, Northwood, Tiffen and Nairn began in the 1850s. The third homestead of over 30 rooms, built in the 1890s, burnt down in 1965.



Photo by Survey Services.

11. Te Angiangi Marine Reserve

(See D.O.C. Pamphlet)

This was established in 1997, and is already a wonderful example of protected sealife on an east coast intertidal rock platform. Avoiding the two hours either side of high water, there is good access for all ages to enjoy an exciting day of discovery and exploration. There is an excellent information board by the beach, and in the summer D.O.C. advertise educational trips.

Because of the inaccessible coastline, the inland road via Omakere is still necessary.

12. Omakere and Station

C.J. Nairn bought the land from Captain Northwood (Pourerere) and his descendants still farm here.

The school and church hall were built in the mid 1920s when Omakere became an important staging post for the coast when the inland roads opened up.



13. Aramoana

Alexander McHardy built this homestead in 1894, employing 12 local carpenters and using kauri timber from the Coromandel floated ashore from the coasters. The family's sixth generation live here, with the monument to their Scottish ancestors standing on the hill. The



original woolshed of 1908 is beside the new public reserve, which provides facilities and parking for the beach and northern access to the Marine Reserve.



14. Pouterere

(Information board on beach)

When Cook anchored off here in 1773, two Maori chiefs came aboard to exchange gifts, taking back pigs, fowl and vegetable seeds; then the first two whalers called in in 1796. 74 years later Pouterere became the earliest sheep station in Hawke's Bay, the land being taken up by Captain Northwood, H.S. and F.J. Tiffen and C. Nairn. Their 3,000 merino sheep came along the coast from Wellington in 1879. This was emotionally re-enacted at the Coastal Heritage Trail opening-to see a mob of sheep being driven up this vast spray-laden beach was quite something! The wool clip was 'dumped' (two bales into one to reduce size) in the press still standing in the paddock on the right hand side of the beach road, then to be loaded through the surf onto the boats.

(See photo next page.)





15 Mangakuri

(via Clareinch and Kairakau Roads)

(contact P.G. & J.M. Williams. Phone: (06) 858-4268)

The little church here was built in 1887 by Samuel Williams (later Archdeacon) and restored in 1979. His nephew George managed the station, and took the Sunday service. The employees donated the bell.



Please respect the access walkway across private land; services are held occasionally.

Over the hill along Williams Road is the sandy beach (no public facilities) off which the wool bales were loaded onto the boats, preferably in calm weather.

The third couage in the northern row was once part of the original wool store. At low tide you can walk around the rocks to Kairakau.

16. Kairakau Beach

This popular holiday beach is also rich in Maori history. Spectacular cliffs of 100 million year old sandstone, once deposited beneath the sea, rise up behind the baches, containing lime cemented portions (concretion boulders), and fossilised mussel shells.

The off shore rocks. 36 million years old, are known, from the left, as the Three Bears, Punch and Judy, and Long Rock. Maori know them as Hine Mahunga, Waimatiti and Tokoroa.

17. Kahuranaki Road

(approximately 40 minutes)

Passing the Elsthorpe cemetery, the road winds down through the valley, affording a stunning vista of the surrounding farming area, before running adjacent to the Tukituki River, and connecting with the Waimarama Heritage Trail at the river bridge.



18. Elsthorpe

(D.O.C. pamphlet CHB Reserves and Walkways)

Large early-settled properties were split up and sold in the 1890s; three sawmills dealt with cleared native timber as the land was used more intensively. The school (1889), and hall and church of 1897, are up Kenderdine Road. Luckily 37ha of native bush have been retained in two scenic reserves; the one with the walking track is a peaceful picnic place, especially when the beach is windy.

19. Silver Range Lookout

This ridge, running for 25 kilometres and 405 metres at its highest point, gleams after rain as the wet rock glistens, hence its name. It is unique geologically, crisscrossed by earthquake faultlines, and about to be studied far more closely by scientists.

20. Horseshoe Lake Lookout

(Signed access across private paddock to view of lake, valley and Silver Ranges)

The man-made lake, once raised from an old riverbed, now depends on its own catchment for water supply. Nestling in quiet farmland, it provides an excellent bird habitat.

21. Patangata

Try to imagine the deep and narrower river of old before erosion and shingle, shed from as far away as the Ruahine Ranges, filled the riverbeds, engulfed the bridge, and ended river transport. Boats carrying supplies inland to Waipukurau, then backloading with timber from the cleared farmland, followed the waka travelling inland.

The hotel picture shows the settlement was indeed a busy place. The tavern is here now and the hall belongs to the Hastings District Anglers Club.



*The collection of Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust,
Hawke's Bay Museum, Napier.*

22. Historic grave site

Charles de Pelichet was a pioneer surveyor who came from Otago to Hawke's Bay to assist Donald McLean, the Crown land purchaser.

In 1852 de Pelichet was the first European to build a house in Waipukurau, but was accidentally shot on a pig hunting trip at Patangata.

To return to SH2 follow the signs or branch off for Otane, where there is information at the store and beside the hall.

Suggested reference reading:

History of Hawke's Bay, J.G. Wilson

Road to Porangahau, J.G. Wilson

Sheep Stations or Hawke's Bay, Miriam MacGregor

Hakui 'Mothers of Porangahau', Hilary Pedersen and
Marina Sciascia

Other CHB Heritage Trails:

Highway 2 Trail

Highway 50 Trail

Waipawa and Waipukurau Pavement Walks