

## MITRE FLATS HUT and ascent of MITRE

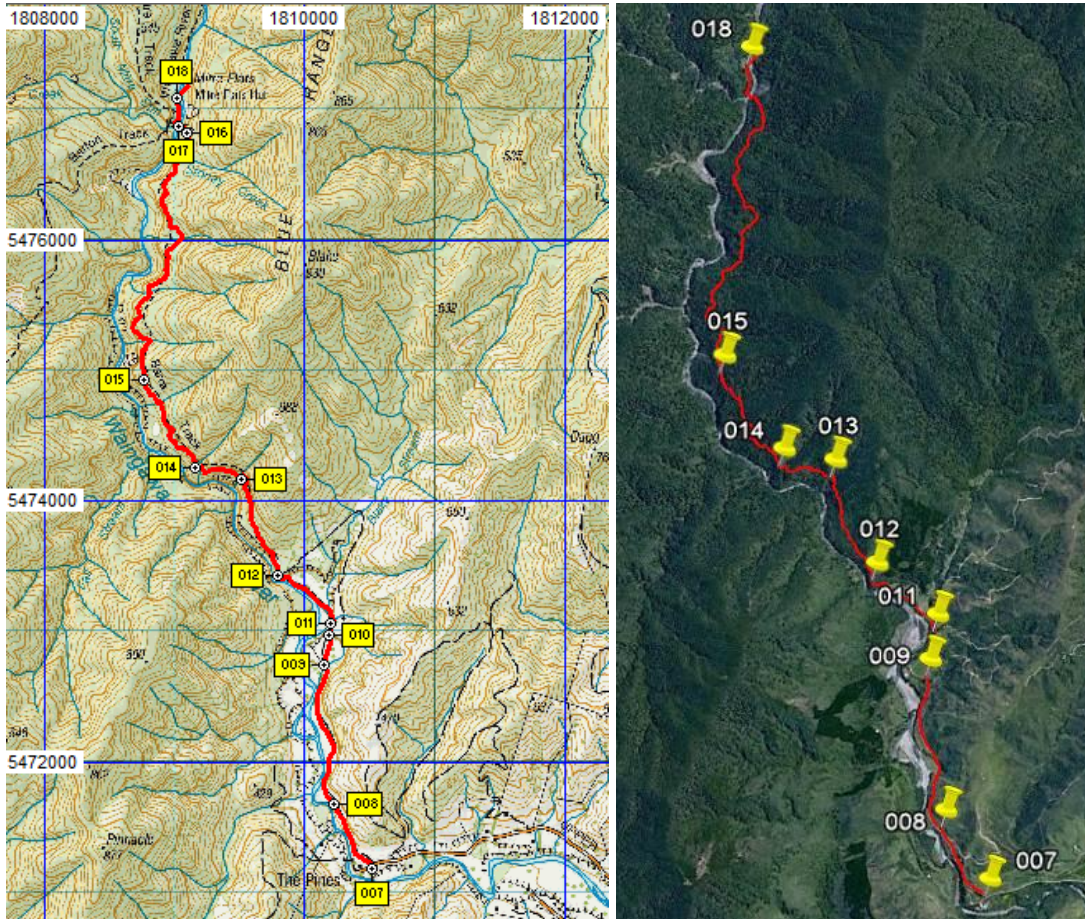
**260 Series Map:** Levin S25 and Carterton S26

**Topo50 Map:** BN34Masterton & BP34 Shannon

**How to get to START:** Starting point is Masterton. From the middle of town get on to Lincoln Road passing the medical centre, over the railway then left to Ngawutawa Road. At a small roundabout go right following the Forest Park sign on Upper Plain Road then left at a Y-fork; the road soon becomes gravel. Park near the end of this road in the lee of some pine trees and where there is a Forest Park information board.

**Rough description:** A pretty hard 2 – 3 day tramp with the ascent of Mitre being classified as falling into the “fit” category. The walk into and out from Mitre Flats Hut is only 8.6km each way but does take 4 hours due to slope, real back-country grade of track with more roots than are usually seen. Mitre Flats Hut has 14 bunks, coal burner – but a wet wood supply when the coal runs out – gas cookers and gas the year round plus a roof-tank water supply. The walk in from the road end to Mitre Flats is 8.6km with an altitude range of 200 metres whilst it is 5.6km from Mitre Flats to the top of Mitre Peak with a gain of 1253 metres.

### Map and Google Image to Mitre Flats Hut



### Waypoints – NZ Grid

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
007	2720554	6033097	308	Park at The Pines at end of Upper Plains Road NW of Masterton
008	2720261	6033591	303	10min; gravel road merges from the right with good gravel road heading north
009	2720180	6034657	300	30min; on good gravel road to bend with gate and cattle grid, go right up wide grassy track
010	2720219	6034881	308	35min; pick-up the gravel road again, pass shed then bear left to track sign through a Taranaki gate
011	2720242	6034970	313	40min; narrow back country track downslope through trees over bridge to river flats
012	2719826	6035344	318	50min; stile after minor grunt upslope to sign for Taranaki Forest. Old iron culvert on Barra Track.
013	2719554	6036079	370	1:25min; first of the tricky stream crossings in rolling to steeply sloping terrain
014	2719198	6036168	417	1:40min; small clearing with views out of dense broadleaf forest
015	2718798	6036837	435	2:20min; big grunt upslope then track bears to the right
016	2719135	6038732	407	3:40min; track sign for the Mitre Flats Hut 8 very hard minutes ahead and 8km from start
017	2719071	6038780	364	3:55min; swing bridge after extremely steep lower slope descent
018	2719052	6039001	368	4 hours; Mitre Flats Hut just past junction for Mitre Peak

### NZTM

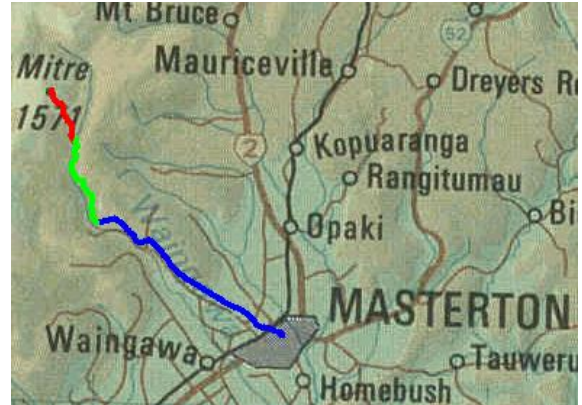
Easting	Northing
1810505	5470917
1810212	5471411
1810132	5472477
1810170	5472701
1810193	5472790
1809778	5473164
1809506	5473899
1809149	5473988
1808749	5474657
1809086	5476553
1809022	5476600
1809003	5476822



**NZ Grid GPS:** Geodetic Datum 1949

**NZTM GPS:** NZTM and WGS 84

### Access & Location



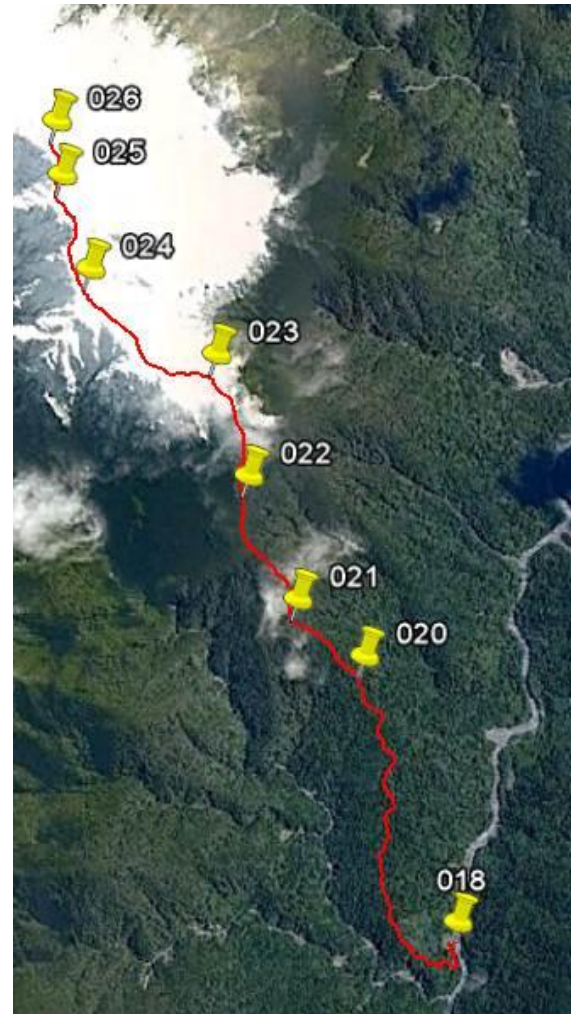
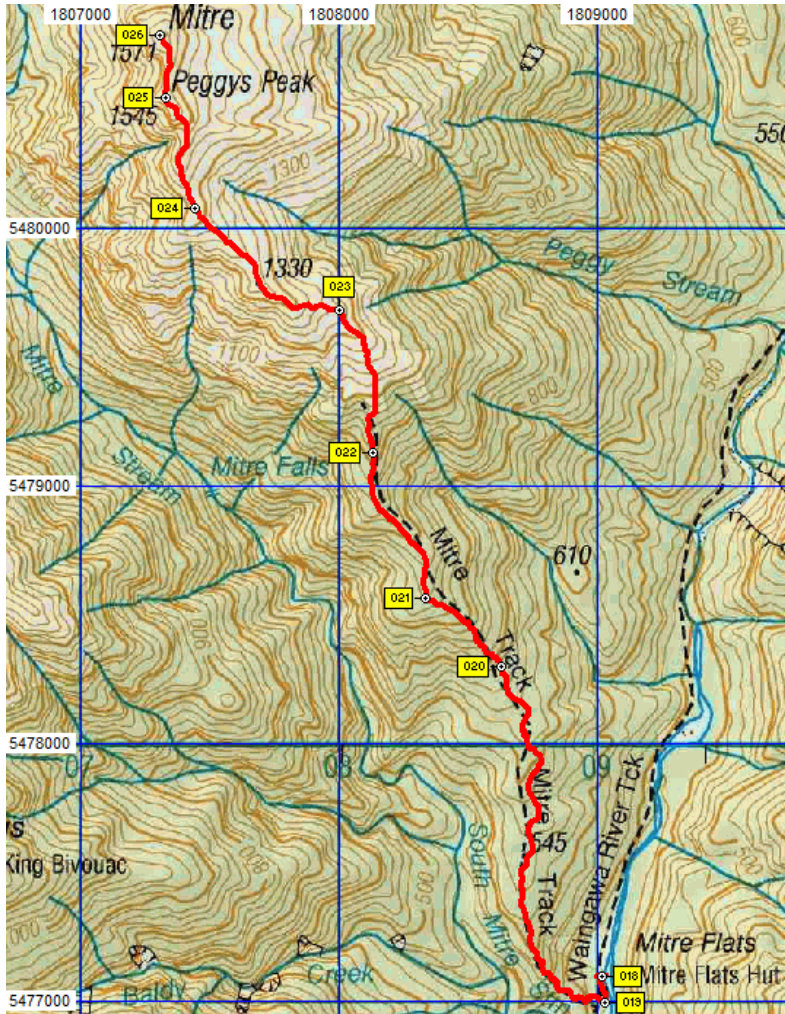
The location can be seen above with the access route driven from Masterton as the **BLUE** line, the walk into Mitre Flats the **GREEN** line, and **RED** line the ascent of Mitre.

**Detail:** From the Pines (**WP007** 308masl) walk more or less north in the lee of a row of pine trees on a well formed gravel road, there is no public vehicular access on this road. Another gravel road merges from the right after about 10 minutes and in 30 minutes a gate plus a cattle grid is reached (**WP009** 300masl). From here the track veers right on a grassy road through a paddock to rejoin the gravel road before a shed is passed and the start of the Barra track is arrived at (**WP010** 308masl) and accessed passing through a Taranaki gate. Then pass down-slope through the trees to reach the grassy river flats before the first grunt of the day up to meet a sign board for the Tararua Forest at a stile (**WP012** 318masl). The real work of the day now starts as the walking gets much more tricky with more roots per square metre than seems possible and numerous ascents and descents to cross all the tributary streams flowing in from the slopes to the east. After about 4 hours of this relentless struggle there is a sign (**WP016** 407masl) that the Mitre Flats Hut is only 8 minutes ahead and that 8km have already been tramped. The final descent ahead is probably the trickiest and steepest of the day but then a swing bridge is crossed and 5 minutes later, after passing the junction for Mitre Peak, the Mitre Flats Hut (**WP018** 368masl) is reached.

**Mitre Flats Hut**



**Map and Google Image from Mitre Flats to Mitre Peak**

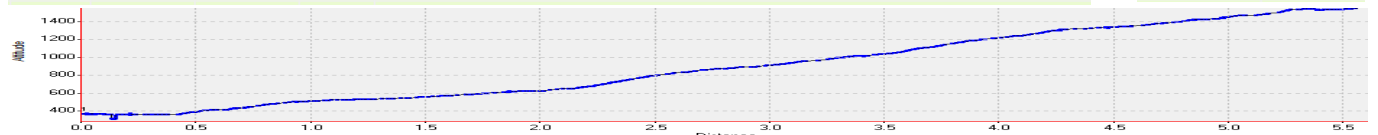


**Waypoints – NZ Grid**

Name	Easting	Northing	Alt(m)	Description
018	2719052	6039001	368	Mitre Flats Hut
019	2719068	6038900	362	5 min; Right at track junction and steeply uphill on overgrown track in superb broadleaf forest
020	2718665	6040210	671	1 hour; good, moderately steep track through podocarp forest then steeper into beech
021	2718372	6040475	858	1:20min; slopes eases, track bears right in wet, mossy forest
022	2718167	6041036	1017	1:50min; "smoko" in small shelf-like clearing just below the bush line
023	2718037	6041587	1242	2:25min; ascend ridge after a stony path with small cairns on to exposed section of ridge
024	2717479	6041987	1426	2:55min; gain crest of ridge and bear right
025	2717365	6042414	1547	3:25min; Peggy's Peak after fair grunt upwards. Rather exposed
026	2717347	6042657	1565	3:35min; cairn at the top of Mitre after rocky, steep and narrow track in places

**NZTM**

Easting	Northing
1809014	5477093
1809031	5476991
1808628	5478301
1808335	5478566
1808130	5479128
1808000	5479679
1807441	5480079
1807328	5480506
1807310	5480748



To ascend Mitre backtrack on the entry track for 5 minutes then turn upslope to the NW at the sign post (**WP019** 362masl) on a very steep, badly over-grown track which soon clears a bit as it gains height and superb podocarp forest is traversed before wet beech forest is entered. The bush-line is reached in about 2 hours (**WP022** 1017masl) and after that small cairns are followed up the rocky gravelly ridge to gain a minor crest where the route swings to the right (**WP024** 1426masl). The first real summit is gained after about 3:30 minutes following a fair grunt upwards and from here, Peggy's Peak (**WP025** 1547masl), it is only another 10 minutes to gain Mitre (**WP026** 1565 masl) after a minor dip then up a narrow ridge which is very exposed and not possible or safe on windy days.

The descent back to the Mitre Flats Hut is slightly quicker but still slow due to the slopes and root cover – the walk back out to the Pines (road end) takes the same time as inwards.

## Mitre



<b>Notes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>GPS</b> Garmin GPSMap 60CSx on WGS84 and NZTM</li><li>• <b>WP</b> = Waypoint as taken by GPS unit</li><li>• <b>masl</b> = metres above sea level</li></ul>	<b>April 2009</b>  <b>NZTM Grid</b>
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