

Study site information

5: Meads Wall

Notes for schools and educators



Meads Wall study site. Photo: Benjamin Moorhouse

Key information

Unmodified (by human activity) site in an alpine environment

This 20 x 20 m plot is an unmodified location within a mid-to high-altitude alpine environment. The area is located directly in front of a ski hut.

For an overview of study sites see [Section 4](#), page 7.

More information on the Round the Mountain Track

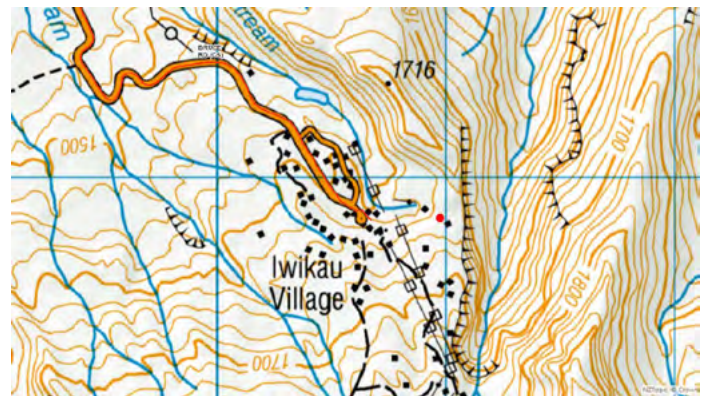
www.mtruapehu.com/winter/whakapapa
Topographic map of New Zealand

Getting to site

Take SH47 towards Whakapapa Village. Continue through the village and along Bruce Road towards Whakapapa ski field. Drive to the top of the road and park before the barriers into the ski field.

On foot, head through the barriers and follow the road through the ski village. Continue past the chairlift on right (Rangatira Express) and follow the track in front of you. The track leads to Meads Wall, a 10 minute return trip. Before reaching Meads Wall, you will see Aorangi Hut on the right. The Meads Wall study site is at the base of the rocks in front of Aorangi Hut.

The red dot on the map indicates the location of the study site.



Visitor facilities and parking

The car park is large enough for coaches and minibuses. There are toilets and a café in the Whakapapa ski field village.



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Recommended activities

- ▶ For pre- and post-field-trip learning activities, see [Section 2](#).
- ▶ For information on NCEA assessment resources that could be linked to fieldwork at this site, see [Section 3: Year 11–13 NCEA assessment resources](#).
- ▶ For ideas on practical learning activities across Tongariro National Park, see [Section 4](#).
 - Observation activity – page 9
 - Ideas for using study sites – page 10
 - Geology activity ideas – page 11
 - Human impact activities – pages 12 and 13
- ▶ Using a measured transect or quadrat (1 x 1 m) you can investigate:
 - vegetation (eg tussock, vegetable sheep)
 - invertebrates (eg alpine grasshopper)
 - geology (eg rock types, erosion and origin).
- ▶ 5-minute bird count (eg pipit/pīhoihoi) – see [Experiencing Birds in your green space](#), page 10.
- ▶ Geology activity information in [Section 2](#), page 10. Geology activity sheets in [Section 7](#), pages 9–14.

Comparison sites

For an overview of study sites see [Section 4](#), page 7.

- ▶ *Happy Valley site* for comparison with a heavily modified site in the same area.
- ▶ *Whakapapanui Walk site* for comparison with a non-alpine forested environment.
- ▶ *Ohakune Mountain Road site* for comparison with an alpine environment in a similar altitude on the opposite side of the mountain.

Health and safety

For general health and safety considerations see [Section 4](#), pages 8–9.

- ▶ Uneven surface off the track. Be careful of trip hazards.
- ▶ Weather – this site is exposed to the elements, and weather can change quickly. Make sure all students are prepared.
- ▶ Volcanically active area – make sure your group is aware of emergency warning and evacuation procedures. www.doc.govt.nz/volcanicrisk
- ▶ Aorangi Hut is often in use, so respect hut users' privacy and don't go up to windows.

Education providers working here

Hillary Outdoors:

www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz/portfolio/opc-tongariro-2

Other education experiences in the area

For further information on activities in this area, see:

[Whakapapa Village Area information](#)

[Tongariro National Park information](#)

[Central North Island information](#)

