

# Study site information

## 9: Ohakune Mountain Road

Notes for schools and educators



Massey University Hut and study site. Photo: Holly Turner

### Key information

#### Unmodified (by human activity) site in an alpine environment

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

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

#### More information on sites around the Turoa ski field

[www.mtruapehu.com/winter/Turoa](http://www.mtruapehu.com/winter/Turoa)

[Topographic map of New Zealand](#)

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### Getting to site

Drive into Ohakune on SH49. Opposite the i-SITE, turn onto Goldfinch Street towards Turoa ski field. Follow this road, which becomes Mangawhero Terrace and then Ohakune Mountain Road, as you head out of Ohakune.

Follow Ohakune Mountain Road for 18 km (about 20 minutes) as if you were driving to Turoa ski field. A few kilometres from the ski field you will see Massey University Alpine Hut on the right side of the road. Turn right and drive towards this hut, where you will find a small car park.

Walk around to the side of the hut that faces downhill, then walk down the rock face in front of the hut to find the study site.

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



### Visitor facilities and parking

The car park beside the hut is large enough for multiple coaches and minibuses. There are NO toilets at this site – the nearest toilets are in Ohakune.

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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.

- ▶ *Meads Wall site* for comparison with an unmodified site in a similar environment on the northern side of the mountain.
- ▶ *Alpine Flush site* for comparison with a different environment at similar altitude.
- ▶ *Mangawhero Forest Walk site* for comparison with a non-alpine forested environment.

## Health and safety

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

- ▶ Uneven rocky 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. See [www.doc.govt.nz/volcanicrisk](http://www.doc.govt.nz/volcanicrisk)
- ▶ Massey University alpine hut can often be 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](http://www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz/portfolio/opc-tongariro-2)

## Other education experiences in the area

For further information on activities in this area, see:

[Ohakune Old Coach Road](#)

[Ohakune area tramping tracks](#)

[Tongariro National Park information](#)

[Central North Island information](#)

