

Ahuriri Conservation Park contains over 49,000 hectares of rugged mountain country, valuable and vulnerable wetlands, tussock lands and beech/tawhai forest. Spectacular scenery and ease of access make the park a popular destination for recreation.

### Upper Ahuriri valley

There is two-wheel drive access along Birchwood Road to the Ahuriri Conservation Park boundary from State Highway 8 (21 km). From here it is four-wheel drive (4WD) access to a car park just before Canyon Creek. From the road end there is no vehicle access because of the fragile nature of the environment. Mountain bikers, trampers and horse riders can all easily access the upper valley where there are plenty of camping spots and three huts.

Upper Ahuriri valley 4WD road end – Shamrock Hut	2 hours	-----
4WD road end – Hagens Hut	4 hours	-----
4WD road end – Top Hut	6 hours	-----

### Canyon Creek

From the road end it is a short walk to Canyon Creek picnic area. From here the tramping track takes you over a spectacular canyon and through beech forest. A lightly-marked route leads through an impressive gorge to the upper valley's waterfalls and grassy flats. A rock bivvy has stunning views of Mt Barth.

4WD road end – Canyon Creek picnic area	20 min	-----
Canyon Creek picnic area – bushline	1 hour	-----
Bushline – rock bivvy	2 hours 30 min	.....



Rock wren/piwauwau Photo: J Van Hal



Photo: G van Reenen

### Dingle Burn valley

A steep track rises 600 m from the Ahuriri valley floor to Dingleburn Pass (below left). Snowpoles mark the descent into the Dingle Burn valley and to Top Dingle Hut

Ahuriri valley floor – Top Dingle Hut	3 hours	-----
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From Top Dingle Hut it is a long tramp down Dingle Burn valley and out to Lake Hawea (see *Hawea Conservation Park* brochure for more details).

### Snowy Gorge Creek

Cross the Ahuriri River at a suitable spot to reach the open tussock valley of Snowy Gorge Creek. An unmarked route leads over Snowy Saddle and into the beech-clad Maitland valley. Exiting out of lower Maitland valley requires prior permission from Lake Ohau Station.

Birchwood Road – Snowy Gorge Hut	3 hours	.....
Snowy Gorge Hut – Maitland Hut	4 hours	.....
Maitland Hut – Lake Ohau	4 hours	-----
Birchwood Road – Hideaway Hut	2 hours	.....

A side trip from Snowy Gorge Creek is a visit to Hideaway Hut, an historic hut nestled behind peak Pt 1254. Cross the Ahuriri River on foot. An unmarked route travels around Pt 1254, past a mountain tarn and on to the hut.

### Lower Ahuriri valley – public access easements

Marked public access easements (foot or vehicle) pass through private farmland to the Ahuriri River and other conservation land (see map). Please keep to the marked tracks. Dogs are not permitted on the public access easements through these stations.

### Te Araroa

A signposted car park area 11 km along Birchwood Road denotes the start of a public access easement beside Avon Burn River. The track climbs over Mt Martha Saddle to Top Timaru Hut and is part of Te Araroa – a walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff, [www.teararoa.org.nz](http://www.teararoa.org.nz).



Birchwood Road – Top Timaru Hut	6 – 8 hours	-----
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A public easement gives access to the western slopes of Ben Avon and the mountain range near Birch Hill (for more information refer to *Recreation in the Lindis area* brochure).

### Quailburn Bush and historic site

This area can be accessed from Quailburn Road just north of Omarama. The historic site at the road end, with a woolshed (below), homestead, hut ruins dating from 1866 and old sheep dip, is a fantastic spot for a family picnic. A short track through beech forest takes walkers to a view point above the bushline.

Quailburn historic site – Quailburn bushline	30 mins	-----
Quailburn bushline – East Ahuriri River	1 hour 30 min	.....
East Ahuriri Hut ruin – Lake Ohau via Freehold Creek	8 hours	.....

Ohaui Moraines Wetland Complex is signposted off Quailburn Road. This vast area of wetlands and rolling moraines is a great place to explore.



### Take care visiting natural areas

**Upper Ahuriri valley 4WD road:** This road is subject to frequent washouts and slips during and after periods of heavy rainfall. Heavy snowfall in winter and freeze/thaw cycles in the late winter/early spring can make the road impassable. The road could be closed to vehicle use at these times.

**Communications:** Cell phone coverage cannot be relied on in this region. The use of satellite phones, mountain radios or personal locator beacons can all provide increased personal safety. An emergency phone is signposted off Birchwood Road near Birchwood homestead.

**Navigation:** Carry the appropriate topographic map for your backcountry trip.

**Fire:** Fire restrictions apply to all public conservation land. Check with the Twizel Information Centre or DOC office for the current fire status.

**River crossing:** Be aware of weather in catchment headwaters. Do not attempt to cross swollen rivers or streams.

**Windfall:** Because of the danger of falling branches, it is not advisable to camp under beech forest.

**Avalanche:** Avalanche run-out zones can impact on the valley floor from May to November. We recommend carrying 457 Khz transceivers, probes and shovels in avalanche terrain.



### Further information

Department of Conservation  
Twizel *Te Manahuna* Area Office  
Wairepo Road, Private Bag, Twizel  
phone: 03 435 0802  
email: [TwizelAO@doc.govt.nz](mailto:TwizelAO@doc.govt.nz)

**For specific Dingle Burn information**  
Department of Conservation  
Wanaka Area Office  
Ardmore St, PO Box 93, Wanaka  
phone: 03 443 7660  
email: [mtaspiringvc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mtaspiringvc@doc.govt.nz)

For more information about recreation and conservation visit: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)  
Suggestions for corrections or improvements should be emailed to: [recreation@doc.govt.nz](mailto:recreation@doc.govt.nz)



Published by  
Department of  
Conservation  
Private Bag 4715  
Christchurch  
2009

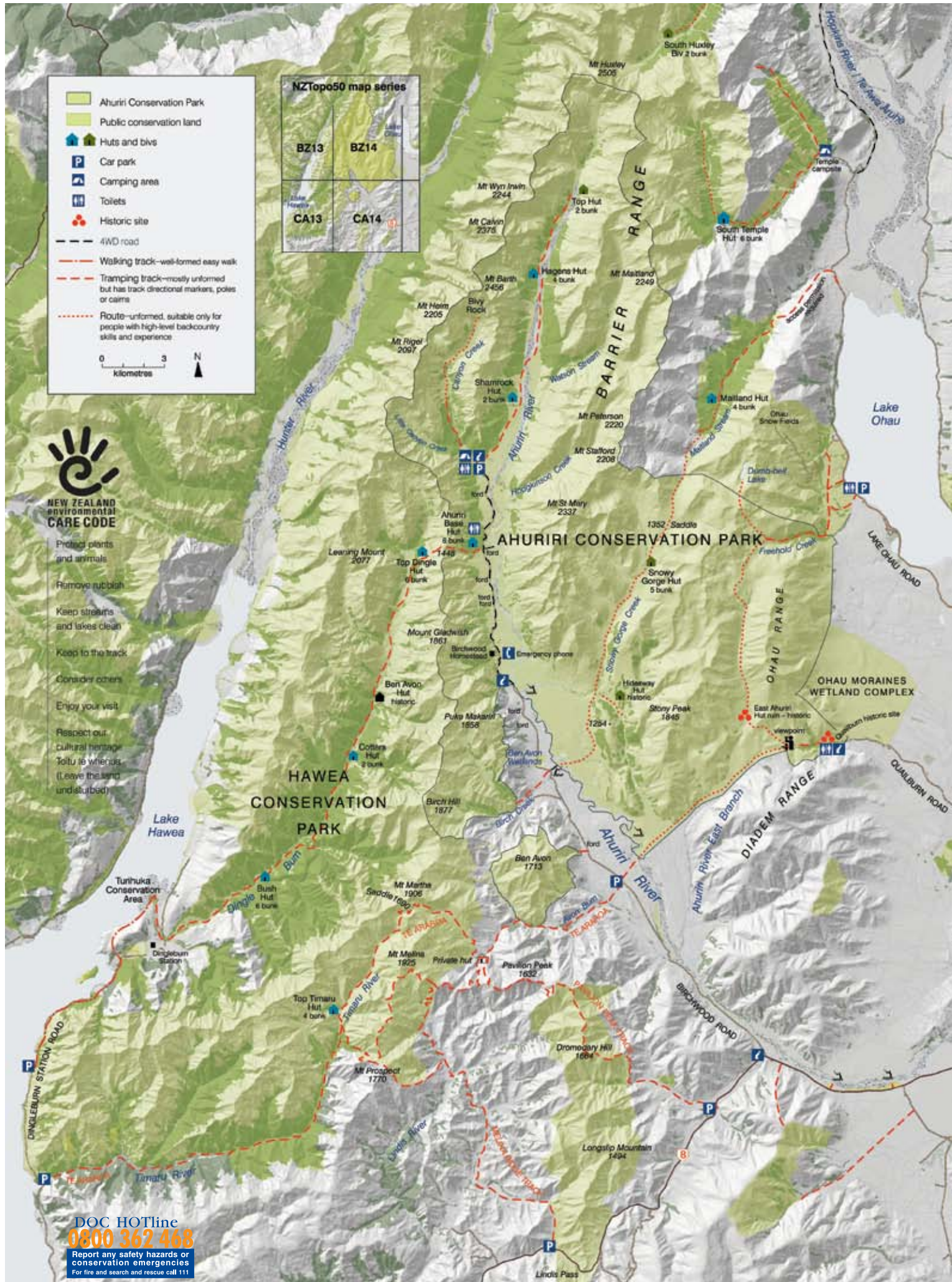
New Zealand Government

# Ahuriri Conservation Park



CANTERBURY/OTAGO





**DOC HOTline**  
**0800 362 468**  
 Report any safety hazards or conservation emergencies  
 For fire and search and rescue call 111



**Check, Clean, Dry**  
 Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to Check, Clean, Dry all items before entering, and when moving between, waterways.

**Access:**  
 Ohau Snow Fields road: Permission to drive up Ohau Snow Fields road is required from Lake Ohau Lodge. Phone: 03 438 9885  
 Maitland Valley: Permission to access the lower Maitland valley is required from Lake Ohau Station. Phone: 03 438 9663

**Hut categories:**

- Standard** – bunks or sleeping platforms with mattresses. Toilet and water supply. 1 hut ticket per adult per night
- Basic** – basic shelter with limited facilities and services. Free.