

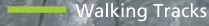
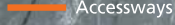
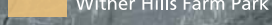
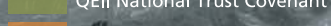
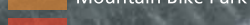

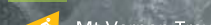

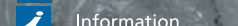

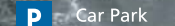
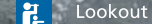
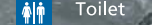





WITHER HILLS FARM PARK

WALK AND MOUNTAINBIKE TRACKS

Your guide to the Wither Hills Farm Park tracks and access points. Choose a short or long walk or bike ride and discover the extensive and diverse walking and mountainbiking options that afford excellent views of Blenheim and beyond.

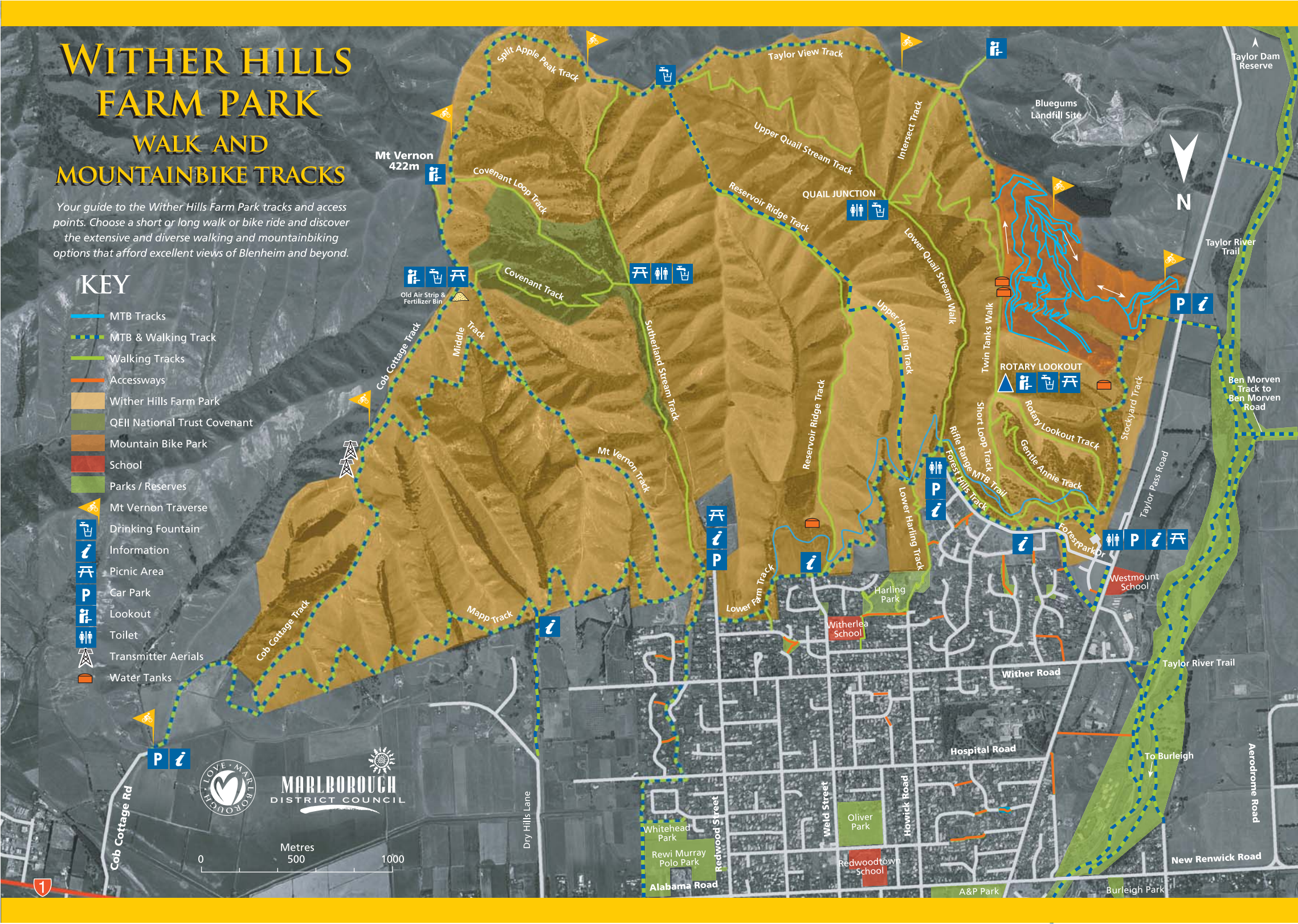
KEY

-  MTB Tracks
-  MTB & Walking Track
-  Walking Tracks
-  Accessways
-  Wither Hills Farm Park
-  QEII National Trust Covenant
-  Mountain Bike Park
-  School
-  Parks / Reserves
-  Mt Vernon Traverse
-  Drinking Fountain
-  Information
-  Picnic Area
-  Car Park
-  Lookout
-  Toilet
-  Transmitter Aerials
-  Water Tanks



MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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DISCOVER THE WITHER HILLS FARM PARK

BY MOUNTAINBIKE OR ON FOOT

Welcome to Wither Hills Farm Park. Named after early landowner Charles Bigg Wither, this 1100ha tract of rolling hill country is administered by the Marlborough District Council.

In the mid 19th century tall native grasses covered these hills and gully forests existed containing Matai and Totara trees. Early sheep farming practices exposed the light topsoils to the ravages of wind and rain causing severe erosion problems. Flooding of the township below was a regular occurrence.

Since the 1940's the area has been subject to intensive land stabilisation works. Dams and silt traps were built to stop the land from being washed away and bulldozers were used to plough areas of tunnel-gulley erosion to bring them back into pasture for cattle and sheep grazing. Council's tree planting efforts in conjunction with school and community groups in the 80's and 90's turned areas of bare hillside into protective forest.

On Boxing Day 2000 the disastrous 'Boxing Day Fire' swept through over 6000 ha. of farmland including most of the farm park. Many species have successfully recovered and a replanting programme has also assisted restoration.

POTENTIAL FIRE DANGER

Farm Park users must be aware of potential danger from fire, particularly during summer months and in dry, windy conditions. During these conditions it is strongly recommended to only use the Lower Farm Track or Stockyard Track beside the town. Look for Fire Danger warning signage at the park entrances during the summer months.

THE WALKS

The creation of the walks began in the early 1970's when Blenheim South Rotary and the Council developed the walk to what is now known as Rotary Lookout, with a circuit down through Quail Stream. Today there are over 50 kilometres of walking and mountain biking tracks to enjoy.

The walks are well sign posted and most require only average levels of fitness. Good footwear would be helpful and some tracks may be muddy or slippery especially in winter.

The Mount Vernon Lookout walk provides some of the finest vantage points in Marlborough. The Gentle Annie and Quail Stream walks provide easier and shorter walks to the Rotary Lookout shelter where



one can experience excellent views of Blenheim and the Wairau Plains. For those preferring a more gentle walk, the Lower Farm Track and the Forest Hills Walk is an easy walk which links Redwood St and Taylor Pass Rd - with the possibility of returning via some of Blenheim's residential streets and access ways. There are also other tracks to lead walkers into this peaceful part of the world, however do watch for mountainbikers as some tracks have shared use (refer map).

Walk Times - all one way unless stated otherwise.

Redwood Street Gateway

- To Sutherland Stream Picnic area, 30 minutes.
- To Mount Vernon Lookout, 50 minutes.
- To Taylor Pass Gateway via Sutherland Stream and Quail Stream, 2.5 hours.
- Lower Farm Track and Forest Hills Track to Taylor Pass Gateway, 45 minutes.

Taylor Pass Gateway

- To Rotary Lookout, 25 minutes.
- Lower Quail Stream, Rotary Lookout Walk, 1hr 45 return.
- To Taylor Dam Lookout 1 hr 20 min.
- To Redwood Street Gateway via Quail Stream and Sutherland Stream, 2.5 hours.
- Forest Hills Track and Lower Farm Track to Redwood Street Gateway, 45 minutes.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACKS

Lower Farm Track

This shared use track provides an ideal family ride and connects Redwood Street to Taylor Pass Road. A gentle climb to Harling Ridge is encountered enroute and provides excellent views over Blenheim and beyond. Speed limit applies, stay on main track and give way to all other track users.

Rifle Range Mountain Bike Track

This two way track starts near the Rifle Range Car Park and traverses above the Lower Farm Track almost to Redwood St. A single track and somewhat more challenging than Lower Farm Track.

Taylor Pass Road - Mountain Bike Area

• A dedicated 40 hectare basin comprising a network of mostly one way trails requiring a range of skill levels. There are 3 grades of track: Easy, Intermediate and Advanced. Access is via a car park off Taylor Pass Road or via the popular Stockyard Track. Walkers and runners must give way to cyclists in this area. Note: Separate maps of this area are available on the website or from Council offices.

Mt Vernon Traverse

The 'Mt Vernon Traverse' climbs up and over the Farm Park via Taylor View and Split Apple Peak Tracks. This route is also a shared walking and mountain bike track and is strenuous, covering steep terrain. Starting at the Mountain Bike Park provides the best Traverse ride. Ride time: Round trip, 2hr 30min.

Reservoir Ridge and Upper Harling Park Mountain Bike Track

This track provides a shorter return circuit from Taylor View Track.

REMEMBER...

Wither Hills Farm Park is a working farm. Treat it with respect.

The Farm Park is open 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

- BE AWARE OF POTENTIAL FIRE DANGER - PARTICULARLY IN DRY, WINDY CONDITIONS
- KEEP TO TRACKS
- WATCH FOR HOLES IN THE GROUND OR TRACKS AND TRAILS AS GROUND IS VERY EROSION PRONE

- DO NOT RIDE WET / SOFT TRACKS AS THIS WILL DAMAGE THE TRACK.
- BIKERS GIVE WAY TO WALKERS, STOCK & VEHICLES ON SHARED TRACKS
- DO NOT DISTURB STOCK, WILDLIFE OR VEGETATION
- LEAVE ALL GATES AS FOUND
- CARRY OUT ALL RUBBISH
- SORRY - AS THIS IS A WORKING FARM, NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED
- TAKE ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

The Farm Park, or parts of it, may occasionally be closed due to extreme fire risk, lambing or pest control operations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Marlborough District Council

Seymour St, Blenheim. Tel 03 520 7400
www.marlborough.govt.nz

Marlborough Visitor Information Centre

The Railway Station, Sinclair St
PO Box 791, Blenheim.

Tel 03 577 8080, Fax 03 577 8079

Email: blenheim@i-site.org

Picton Visitor Information Centre

The Foreshore, PO Box 165, Picton.
Tel 03 520 3113

Email: picton@i-site.org

