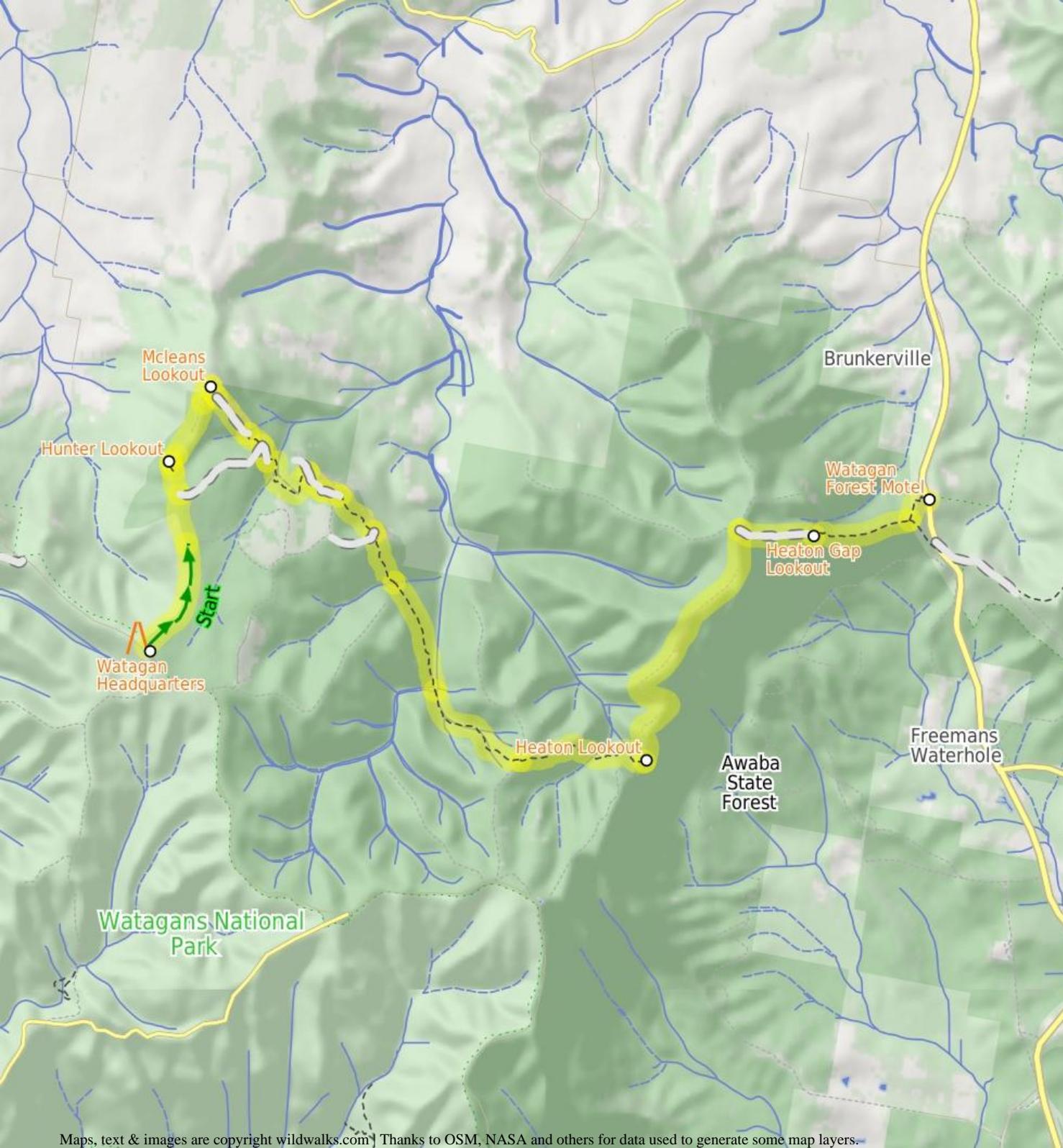


## Watagan Forestry HQ campsite to Heaton Gap



6 hrs

Hard track

12.5 km One way

↑ 729m



This walk starts from the Watagan Forestry HQ campsite and follows the Great North Walk through the Watagan State Forest. The walk then heads out to Heaton lookout and down the long descent into Heaton Gap, passing several more fantastic lookouts and picnic areas on the way. The walk finishes at Heaton Gap on Freemans drive, just opposite the Watagan Forest Motel.

148m

481m

Heaton State Forest

## Watagan Headquarters

Watagan Headquarters campsite (aka Forestry HQ) is located in the Heaton State Forest, beside Bakers Rd, near Heaton Rd. This campsite has wood fired barbecues, picnic tables and a garbage bin. The large, flat, cleared area allows plenty of room to pitch a tent. In 2010, a series of vandalism attacks occurred on the water tank, so there is no longer water available.

## Hunter Lookout

Hunter Lookout can be found on Bakers Road, along the Great North Walk. This fenced lookout has everything you will need snack-stop, including toilets, picnic tables, chairs and wood-fired barbecues. This lookout has fantastic views over much of the Hunter region. In 2010, a series of vandalism attacks occurred on the water tank, so water is no longer available at Hunter Lookout.

## McLeans Lookout

McLeans Lookout offers magnificent views of the valleys in Heaton State Forest. Located on Bakers Road, this fenced lookout also has picnic facilities including tables with seats and open grassy areas.

## Heaton Lookout

Heaton Lookout is one of the larger lookouts located on Heaton Road. This fenced lookout faces south-east. There are wood fired barbecues, picnic tables and a pit toilet. Heaton Lookout is a great place to stop for a snack, and the amazing view feels like a bonus. This lookout was named after Richard Heaton, a timber cutter who came to Australia as a convict. There is a water tank here, due to vandalism in the area this is not a reliable water source.

## Heaton Gap Lookout

Heaton Gap lookout is a fantastic spot to stop and catch your breath in Heaton State Forest. This unfenced lookout offers exhilarating views over the valleys towards Tuggerah Lake and Lake Macquarie. this unignposted view, as with many features in the area, was named after Richard Heaton, a timber cutter who came to Australia as a convict. [More info.](#)

## Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Hunter District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Hunter](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Watagans National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

## Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

## Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

**1:25 000 Map Series:**91322S QUORROBOLONG

**1:50 000 Map Series:**91322 CESSNOCK

**1:100 000 Map Series:**9132 CESSNOCK

## Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



Grade 4/6  
Hard track

<b>Length</b>	12.5 km One way
<b>Time</b>	6 hrs
<b>Quality of track</b>	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Minimal directional signs (4/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Storms may impact on navigation and safety (3/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities (such as cliffs not fenced, significant creeks not bridged) (4/6)



### Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walk's overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

**Getting there** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Forestry H.Q. campsite (gps: -32.9756, 151.4117). Car: There is free parking available. You can get back from Heaton Gap Track Head (gps: -32.9653, 151.4794) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/wfcheg>

### 0 | Watagan Headquarters

Watagan Headquarters campsite (aka Forestry HQ) is located in the Heaton State Forest, beside Bakers Rd, near Heaton Rd. This campsite has wood fired barbecues, picnic tables and a garbage bin. The large, flat, cleared area allows plenty of room to pitch a tent. In 2010, a series of vandalism attacks occurred on the water tank, so there is no longer water available.

### 0 | Forestry H.Q. campsite

*(950 m 16 mins)* From the intersection (Forestry H.Q. campsite), this walk follows Bakers Road gently downhill, while keeping the GNW arrow marker on your right and the large 'Great North Walk' sign on your left. The walk continues, undulating gently for about 900m until coming to a three-way intersection with Rocky Creek Road (on the right).

### 0.95 | Int of Bakers & Rocky Creek Roads

*(670 m 11 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Bakers Road north and gently uphill, while keeping Rocky Creek Road (no signpost) on your right. The walk continues, undulating gently for about 400m until coming to a three-way intersection with Glen Road (on the right). Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Bakers Road gently uphill, while keeping Glen Road on your right. The walk continues, undulating gently for about 250m until coming to Hunter Lookout picnic area (on the left).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads off the road and up the hill following the Hunter Lookout picnic area sign, past the wooden gate and the public toilet, to the picnic area area and the lookout.

### 1.62 | Hunter Lookout

Hunter Lookout can be found on Bakers Road, along the Great North Walk. This fenced lookout has everything you will need snack-stop, including toilets, picnic tables, chairs and wood-fired barbecues. This lookout has fantastic views over much of the Hunter region. In 2010, a series of vandalism attacks occurred on the water tank, so water is no longer available at Hunter Lookout.

### 1.62 | Hunter Lookout picnic area

*(700 m 16 mins)* Continue straight: From the picnic area, this walk heads north, past the metal gate to the intersection of Bakers Road.

Veer left: From the Hunter Lookout picnic area (on Bakers Road), this walk follows Bakers Road north and gently downhill, while keeping Hunter Lookout on your left. The walk continues for about 400m until coming to a Y-intersection (Bakers Road loop).

Continue straight: From the intersection (Bakers Road Loop), this walk follows the track gently uphill, while keeping the other end of Bakers Road

Loop to your right, gently downhill. The walk follows the road for about 130m until coming to Macleans Lookout.

### 2.32 | Mcleans Lookout

McLeans Lookout offers magnificent views of the valleys in Heaton State Forest. Located on Bakers Road, this fenced lookout also has picnic facilities including tables with seats and open grassy areas.

### 2.32 | Maclean Lookout

*(100 m 2 mins)* Veer right: From Mcleans Lookout, this walk follows Bakers Road gently downhill, while keeping Macleans Lookout behind you on your left. The walk continues for about 80m until coming to a three-way intersection with a wide track and GNW arrow marker (on the left).

### 2.42 | Int of GNW track & Bakers Road

*(570 m 15 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the 'Heaton Lookout' sign on your right. The walk continues (becoming moderately steep downhill) for about 280m until coming to a three-way intersection with a track on the left.

Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track moderately steeply downhill, while keeping the GNW arrow marker on your left. The walk continues (descending moderately steeply into and out of a gully) for about 150m, until coming to a three-way intersection, Glen Road.

### 2.99 | Int of GNW track & Glen Road

*(1.2 km 33 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the track gently downhill, while keeping the 'Glenn Rd' sign on your right. The walk continues through forest for about 120m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a track and GNW arrow marker (on the left).

Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow marker moderately steeply down along the track. The walk continues for about 100m, to find a forested mossy creek where the track bend right and continues close to the creek for about 70m to then bend left and crossing the creek. The walk now follows the track undulating gently for about 280m before finding a large rock overhang. The walk then continues moderately steeply uphill for about 200m until coming to a T-intersection with a wide trail and GNW arrow marker.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Watagan Forest Road' sign uphill along the trail for about 200m to a three-way intersection, with another 'Watagan Forest Road' sign (on your left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide track gently downhill, while keeping the 'Macleans Lookout 2km' sign on your right. The walk continues for about 140m to a three-way intersection, with Fosters Road on your right and 'Fosters Road' sign on your left.

### 4.19 | Int of GNW track and Fosters Road south

*(430 m 16 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post down along the wide old trail, passing the 'Fosters Road' sign on your left. The walk continues for about 100m, where the wide track then leads moderately steeply downhill for about 150m more. The walk then crosses a gully and heads up over another rise for about 70m to where the track narrows then bends left at a GNW arrow post. About 180m past the post, the walk crosses a gully then heads up the other side, past a termite mound to an unfenced cliff with distance valley views. Here the track bends right and leads up a short distance to a dirt road. The walk turns left and follows the road down for just a few metres to the 'Hammonds Road' sign, where the 'MacLean Lookout' arrow points back along the road.

### 4.62 | Int of GNW track and Hammonds Road

*(1.4 km 44 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Heaton Lookout' sign downhill along the road a few metres, then veers

left to follow the GNW arrow down the old trail. The walk leads fairly steeply down for about 180m then passes around a timber barrier. Here the track narrows and continues more steeply downhill through forest for about 250m to a gully and creek crossing (with many fallen dead trees).

Continue straight: This walk crosses the creek and follows the track, while keeping the valley on your left. The walk follows the track steeply up for a short distance, then follows along the base of a cliff for about 120m to pass through a long sandstone cave. The rocky track leads steeply down through the dense rainforest for 700m, following a series of GNW arrow posts to the bottom of the gully beside Wallis Creek.

### 6.07 | Int of GNW track and Wallis Creek

*(1 km 30 mins)* Continue straight: From here, the walk crosses Wallis Creek, and follows the GNW arrows south gently uphill along the track. The walk continues (crossing over a tree trunk with carved steps) and after about 500m, comes to a creek and a tree trunk with a directional arrow carving. Then the walk follows the track for about 130m (crossing the creek a number of times) to find the track leaving the creek. The track is followed moderately steeply uphill through forest for about 400m, until coming to a level four-way intersection with a 'Barniers Road/Mt Faulk Road' sign on your right.

### 7.08 | Int of GNW track and Barniers Road

*(1.2 km 29 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow east, directly away from the face of the 'Barniers Road' sign. The walk continues along the old trail for about 450m to find an intersection with a track (on the right). Here the walk turns right, following the 'The Great North Walk' sign moderately steeply down the narrow track for about 220m and then crosses a creek. The walk continues moderately steeply uphill around another gully and after about 500m, comes to a T-intersection with Heaton trail and Heaton Lookout directly ahead.

### 8.28 | Heaton Lookout

Heaton Lookout is one of the larger lookouts located on Heaton Road. This fenced lookout faces south-east. There are wood fired barbecues, picnic tables and a pit toilet. Heaton Lookout is a great place to stop for a snack, and the amazing view feels like a bonus. This lookout was named after Richard Heaton, a timber cutter who came to Australia as a convict. There is a water tank here, due to vandalism in the area this is not a reliable water source.

### 8.28 | Heaton Lookout.

*(2.4 km 54 mins)* Turn left: From 'Heaton Lookout', this walk follows the 'Heaton Gap' sign gently uphill along the dirt Heaton Rd, past the toilet. After about 250m, the road leads past the 'Heaton Loop Trail' side track, then about 250m later (staying left at the Y-intersection) the road passes another section of the same signposted track as the road bends left, enjoying the views over the clearing (on your right). The road now leads gently uphill for about 1.7km, ignoring a series of side tracks until coming to a clear three-way intersection just past the brick building and fenced communication tower (on the right, and a small dam on the left).

### 10.71 | Heaton Communications Tower

*(620 m 13 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow marker off the main road, heading east along the wide trail, initially keeping the fenced tower on your right. The trail follows the power lines[ref img=359237 for about 600m and then bends right, coming to the Heaton Gap Lookout. The unsignposted and unfenced clearing has wide, uninterrupted views to the south.

### 11.33 | Heaton Gap Lookout

Heaton Gap lookout is a fantastic spot to stop and catch your breath in Heaton State Forest. This unfenced lookout offers exhilarating views over the

valleys towards Tuggerah Lake and Lake Macquarie. this unignposted view, as with many features in the area, was named after Richard Heaton, a timber cutter who came to Australia as a convict. [More info.](#)

### 11.33 | Heaton Gap Lookout

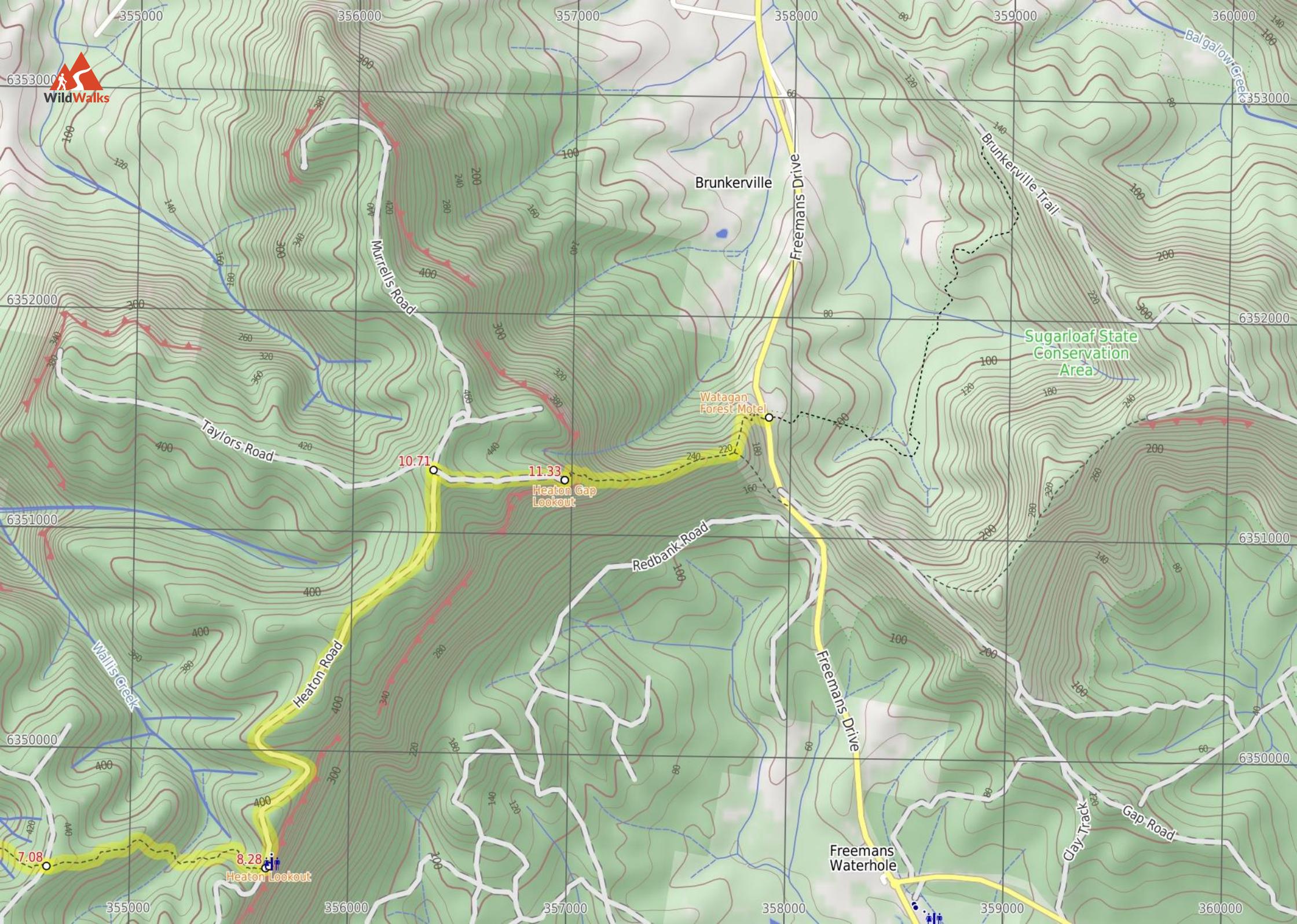
*(1.2 km 32 mins)* Continue straight: From Heaton Gap Lookout, this walk follows the track east, moderately steeply downhill, initially keeping the view from Heaton Gap Lookout on your right. After about 60m, the track leads to a timber platform with more views, underneath the power lines. The walk continues past some handrailing for about 20m to come to the 'Great North Walk Walker Register' post. After noting your intentions, the walk continues steeply downhill with stone and timber steps and sections for handrail for about 200m, past the rock boulders and grass trees where the track widens into a narrow grassy trail. Here the walk follows this trail and the power lines downhill, steeply in places, for about 600m, until coming to a level unignposted three-way intersection with the Freemans Drive trail (on the right).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post and power lines steeply downhill along the trail. The walk continues for about 180m to find a three-way intersection, with a GNW arrow marker on the right (where the power line trail bends left). The walk turns right, leaving the power lines and following the GNW arrow marker steeply down a narrower forested track. The track winds down some timber steps, towards the sound of traffic for about 160m then down a timber staircase to the edge of Freemans Drive. Here the walk crosses Freemans Drive (busy road, please be careful to look and listen for traffic) and comes to the Watagan Forest Motel, petrol station (on the left), picnic area and signposted 'Heaton Gap Track Head' (on the right).

### 12.55 | Watagan Forest Motel

Watagan Forest Motel is located on Branxton-Toronto Road. This retro-style motel is located right on the Great North Walk. The motel offers six rooms for around \$99 per night - each with a double bed (four rooms also have twin singles), a television, bathroom with shower, air conditioning, and breakfast included. Room service is available. Adjoining the motel is a service station, which also offers dining room meals as well as a small grocery selection (bread, milk, bottled water, rice, pasta, etc), open until 8:30pm daily. A rest area is situated next to the motel, with covered picnic tables and garbage bins. For further information, phone (02)4938 0149.





WildWalks

Brunkerville

Sugarloaf State Conservation Area

Watagan Forest Motel

Freemans Waterhole

7.08  
Heaton Lookout

10.71  
11.33  
Heaton Gap Lookout

355000

356000

357000

358000

359000

360000

6353000

6353000

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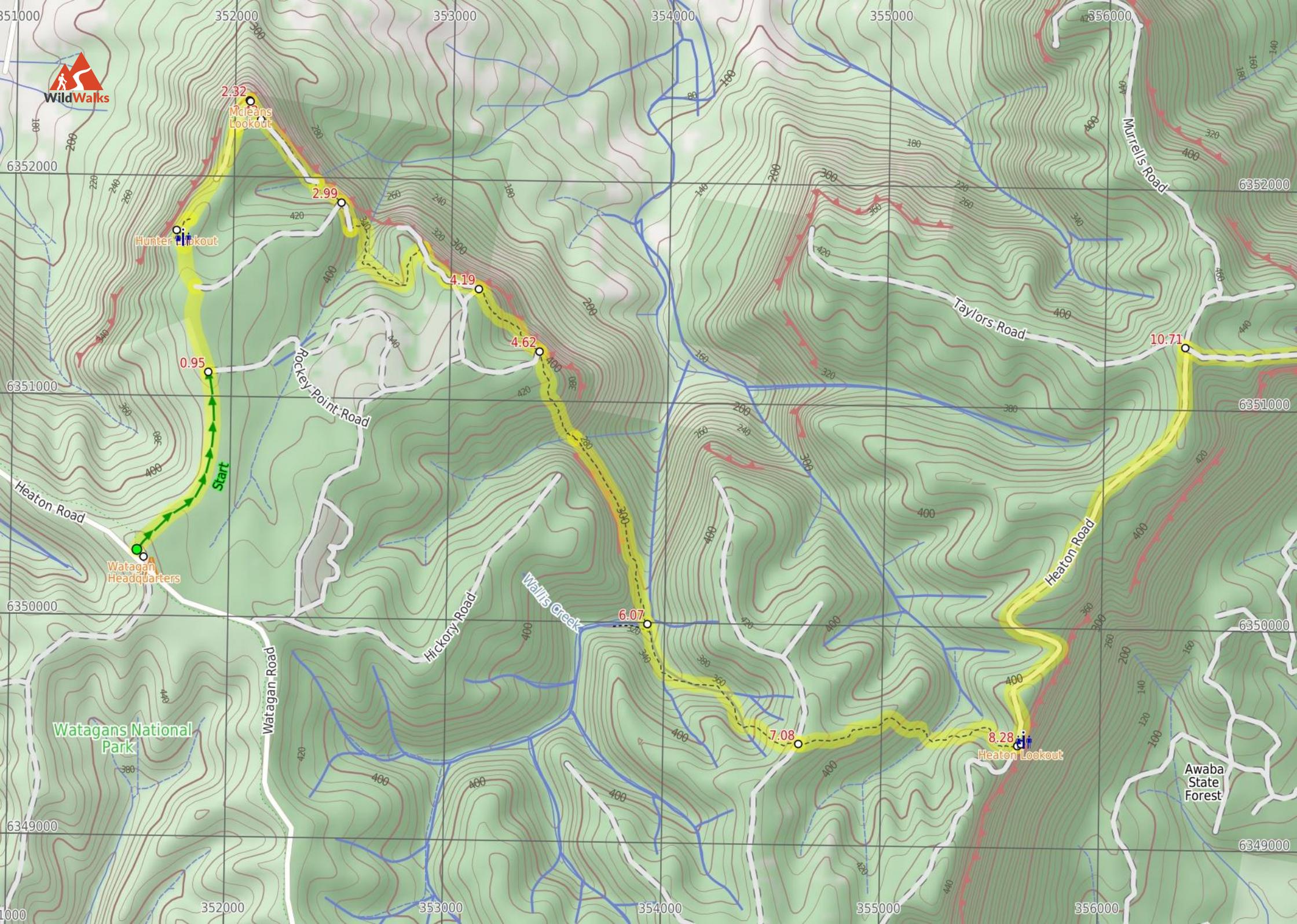
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WildWalks

Hunter Lookout

Mairans Lookout

Watagan Headquarters

Watagans National Park

Awaba State Forest

Heaton Road

Watagan Road

Hickory Road

Wallis Creek

Rocky Point Road

Taylor's Road

Heaton Road

Murrells Road

Heaton Lookout

## Summary navigation sheet for the Watagan Forestry HQ campsite to Heaton Gap



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Forestry H.Q campsite -32.9756,151.4117 (GR Quorrobolong, 516503)	12 -21	950 m 16 mins	From the intersection (Forestry H.Q.
0.95	Int of Bakers & Rocky Creek Roads -32.9683,151.4152 (GR Quorrobolong, 519511)	9 -17	670 m 11 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Bakers Road north and gently uphill, while keeping Rocky Creek Road (no signpost) on your right.
1.62	Hunter Lookout picnic area -32.9626,151.4138 (GR Quorrobolong, 518517)	39 -38	700 m 16 mins	Continue straight: From the picnic area, this walk heads north, past the metal gate to the intersection of Bakers Road.
2.32	Maclean Lookout -32.9572,151.4172 (GR Quorrobolong, 521523)	5 -3	100 m 2 mins	Veer right: From Mcleans Lookout, this walk follows Bakers Road gently downhill, while keeping Macleans Lookout behind you on your left.
2.42	Int of GNW track & Bakers Road -32.958,151.4178 (GR Quorrobolong, 521523)	21 -83	570 m 15 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the 'Heaton Lookout' sign on your right.
2.99	Int of GNW track & Glen Road -32.9614,151.4217 (GR Quorrobolong, 525519)	117 -84	1.2 km 33 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the track gently downhill, while keeping the 'Glenn Rd' sign on your right.
4.19	Int of GNW track and Fosters Road south -32.9649,151.4285 (GR Quorrobolong, 531515)	59 -68	430 m 16 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post down along the wide old trail, passing the 'Fosters Road' sign on your left.
4.62	Int of GNW track and Hammonds Road -32.9675,151.4314 (GR Quorrobolong, 534512)	113 -214	1.4 km 44 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Heaton Lookout' sign downhill along the road a few metres, then veers left to follow the GNW arrow down the old trail.
6.07	Int of GNW track and Wallis Creek -32.9787,151.4367 (GR Quorrobolong, 539500)	143 0	1 km 30 mins	Continue straight: From here, the walk crosses Wallis Creek, and follows the GNW arrows south gently uphill along the track.
7.08	Int of GNW track and Barniers Road -32.9836,151.4441 (GR Quorrobolong, 546495)	58 -115	1.2 km 29 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow east, directly away from the face of the 'Barniers Road' sign.
8.28	Heaton Lookout. -32.9837,151.4548 (GR Quorrobolong, 556495)	144 -54	2.4 km 54 mins	Turn left: From 'Heaton Lookout', this walk follows the 'Heaton Gap' sign gently uphill along the dirt Heaton Rd, past the toilet.
10.71	Heaton Communications Tower -32.9674,151.4631 (GR Quorrobolong, 564513)	3 -69	620 m 13 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow marker off the main road, heading east along the wide trail, initially keeping the fenced tower on your right.
11.33	Heaton Gap Lookout -32.9678,151.4695 (GR Quorrobolong, 570512)	6 -272	1.2 km 32 mins	Continue straight: From Heaton Gap Lookout, this walk follows the track east, moderately steeply downhill, initially keeping the view from Heaton Gap Lookout on your right.