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## MTB Trails Trust News November 2020

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### Please make a donation

The Trust continues to roll out new tracks and maintain existing ones in the St Arnaud area where we now have a network of over 60km of trails. These are all in native bush so they aren't going to be logged. They proved their value in the drought last year when, at one stage, they were the only mountain bike trails in the area open.

The Trust relies solely on donations to fund its operations with which we manage to build new trails at a fraction of the cost of other organisations. So please help us keep providing awesome singletrack by dropping a few bucks in

our bank account so we can continue to put diesel in the digger and pay accommodation and travel costs. Thanks to those who continue to donate to us on a regular basis. [Click on this link to make your donation.](#)

## Your Guide to Local Mountainbike Trails

We still have copies of Nelson–Marlborough Mountainbike Trails available. Makes a great gift for mountainbike addicts. [Buy online](#) \$30 postage included. \$10 from each book sold goes towards funding new trails.

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## Lower Wots up Doc now open

In early August we completed all of the earthworks on Wots up Doc, but it has taken a couple of months with the current weather conditions for the surface to consolidate. On Friday we completed our work by putting some concrete strainer posts in to form a ford across the 6 Mile Creek near the Red Hills carpark. This now makes the whole Wots up Doc 10.3km long climbing from 540m up to 1300m on an 8% grade, which may be the longest purpose built uphill track in New Zealand. The newly completed section is through scenic

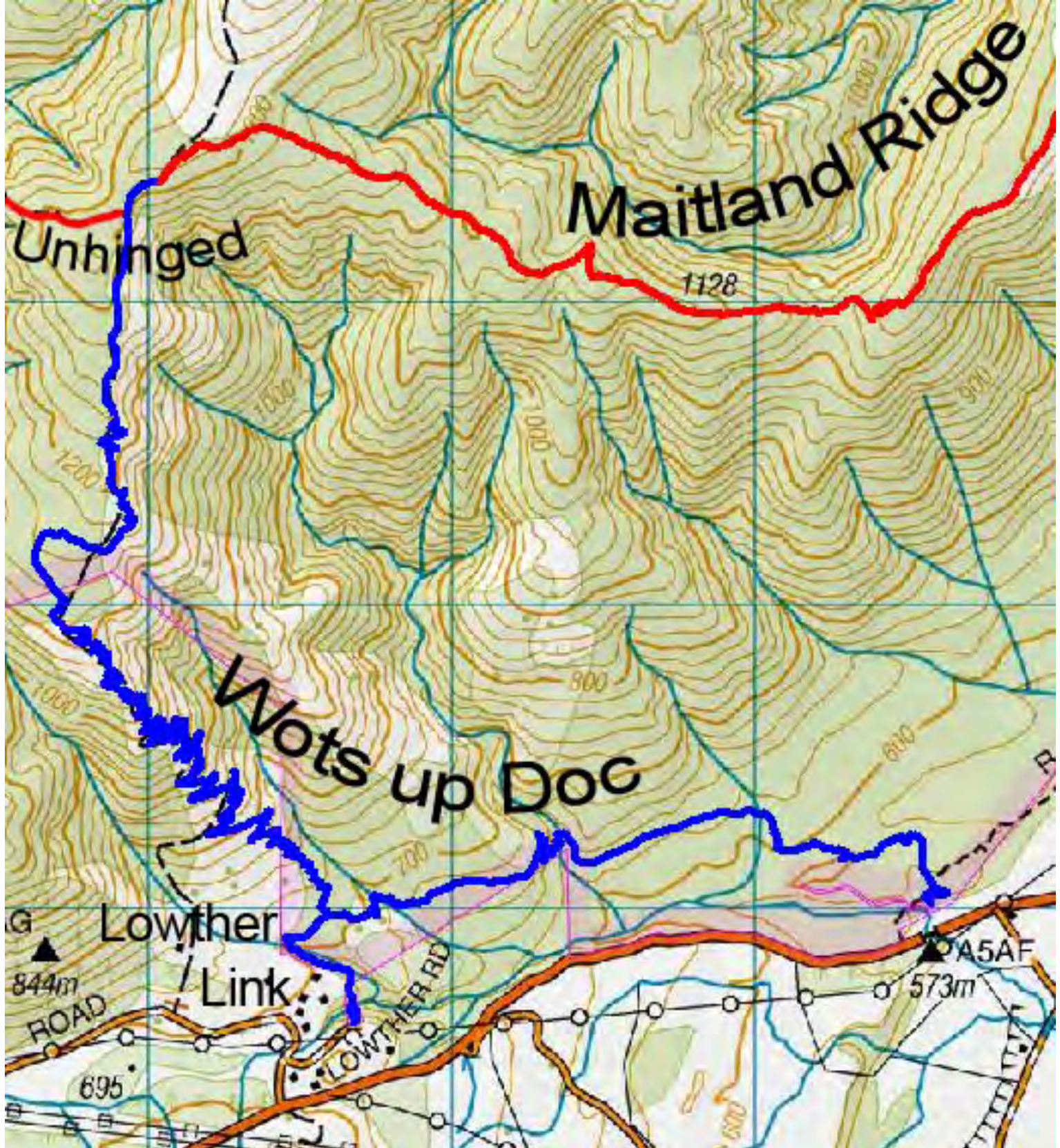
bush with a couple of beautiful creek crossings, so it is worth doing even as an out and back. From parts of the upper section there are great views out to Lake Rotoiti and down the Wairau Valley.

You can now ride the whole Maitland Ridge route on singletrack apart from a few short sections on the Beebys 4wd road.

On the new section there were 1012 hours of volunteer labour from our amazing volunteer track builders and 291 digger hours. The work is valued at \$47,878 while the upper section took 722 hours of labour, 228 digger hours with a value of \$37,035. We are indebted to Gary Donaldson, Andrew Spittal and Malcolm Edridge for their support with equipment, materials and manpower on the upper section and to Jasmine Investments for their generous donations that have enabled us to cover the costs of diesel, accommodation and travel to and from Beebys. The track was made possible with all the help from Bruce and Jane McCallum, Aaron Tandy, Dale Peterson, Sam Buckingham, Jo Kay, William Griffin, Rob Thompson, David Topliss, Ket Bradshaw, and Ian Viapree.

The map below shows Wots up Doc and [Lowther Link](#) in blue and Unhinged going to the left and Maitland Ridge track to the right in red.





Compacting the surface with the powerbarrow



Rock ford across the Upper Six Mile Creek





Riding the rock ford



Pushing the trail through tall kanuka



A short climb before the second creek crossing



Sign at the start of Wots up Doc track



Riding the new track near Six Mile carpark



Unloading concrete strainer posts to make a ford





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## Lowther Link Track

In conjunction with Lower Wots up Doc we have constructed a link track from 3.3k up Wots up Doc out to Lowther Rd. To stay on Conservation Land it was necessary to cross a very steep sided gully adjacent to Lowther Rd so at present it is more suited to a walking track rather than riding. We were assisted at the start of this by NMIT Ranger Trainees back in June.



Digger built part of Lowther Link



Hand building the steep gully on Lowther Link

## New MTB Areas for Tapawera and Wakefield at Wai-iti

OneFortyOne, the new owners of Nelson Forest Ltd, have asked the Trust to oversee development, in conjunction with local groups, of new mountain bike areas on their properties adjacent to Tapawera and close to the Wai-iti domain. The company has generously provided a considerable amount of seed funding to get these projects off the ground.

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The Tapawera MTB area is on the right side of the grassy ridge.

The native bush centre right is Shedwood Bush reserve.

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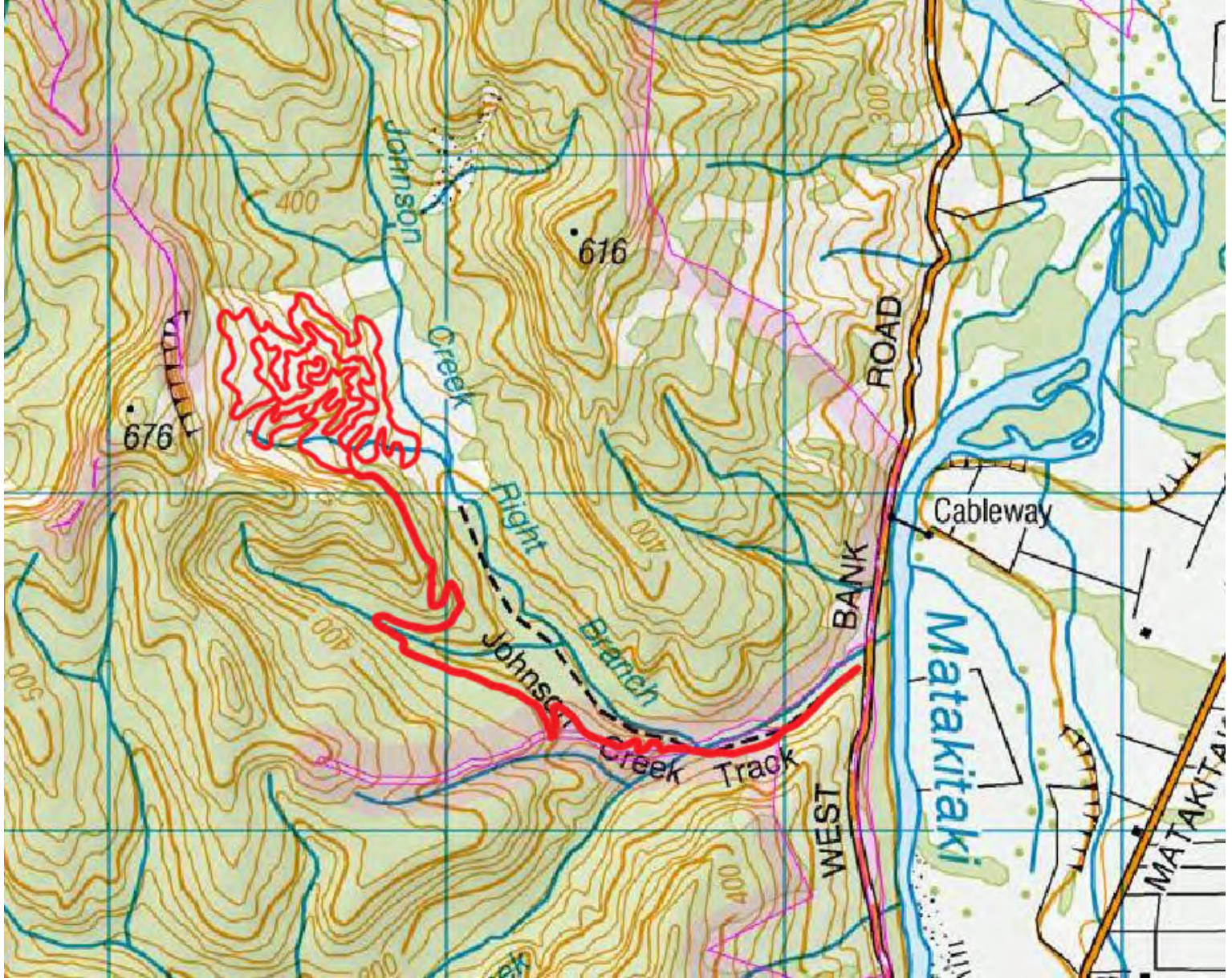
## Proposed Projects

These are some of the projects that we have our wish list for which we will be seeking approval:

### **Johnson Creek, Murchison**

Accessed from the West Bank Mataikitaiki Rd, the proposal is to build a climbing track to an old scrub covered slip area up Johnson Creek where a network of trails would be built amongst some of the huge slip boulders.





Aerial view of the slip area shows the boulders



View over the slip area





The terrain offers some neat features to work with

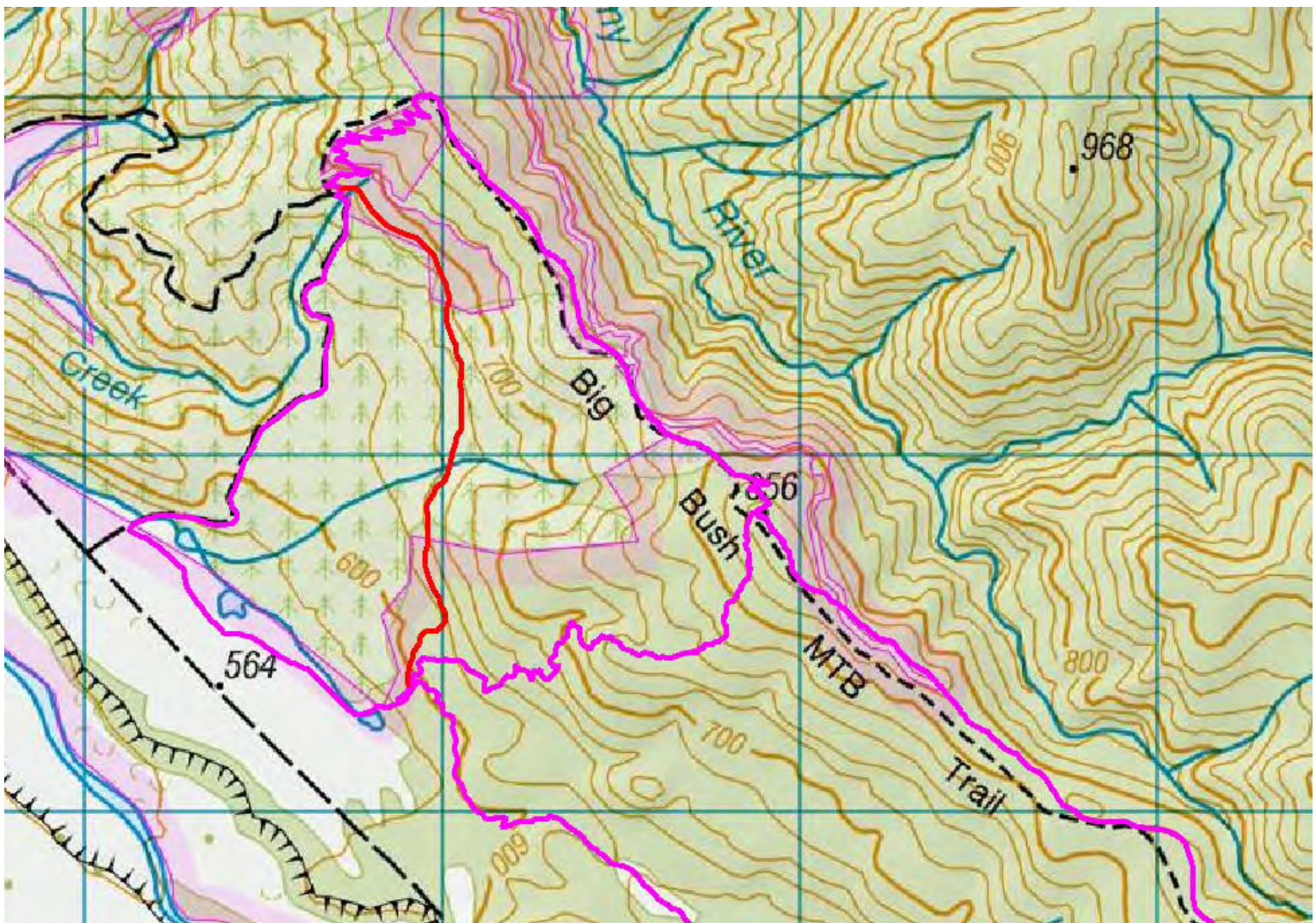
The existing walking track up the creek

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## Flying Moa–Robin Banks Link

This track will go from the bottom of Flying Moa through to the start of Robin Banks Hill at Teetotal so that you don't have to drop down on to the flats and then climb up Jasmine Rd. It will pass through native bush then through logged pine forest before re-entering native bush through to Robin Banks Hill. We also plan to regrade the last steep section of Big Bush Track between the top of Robin Banks and the top of Flying Moa.



Proposed new Flying Moa–Robin Banks Link shown in red

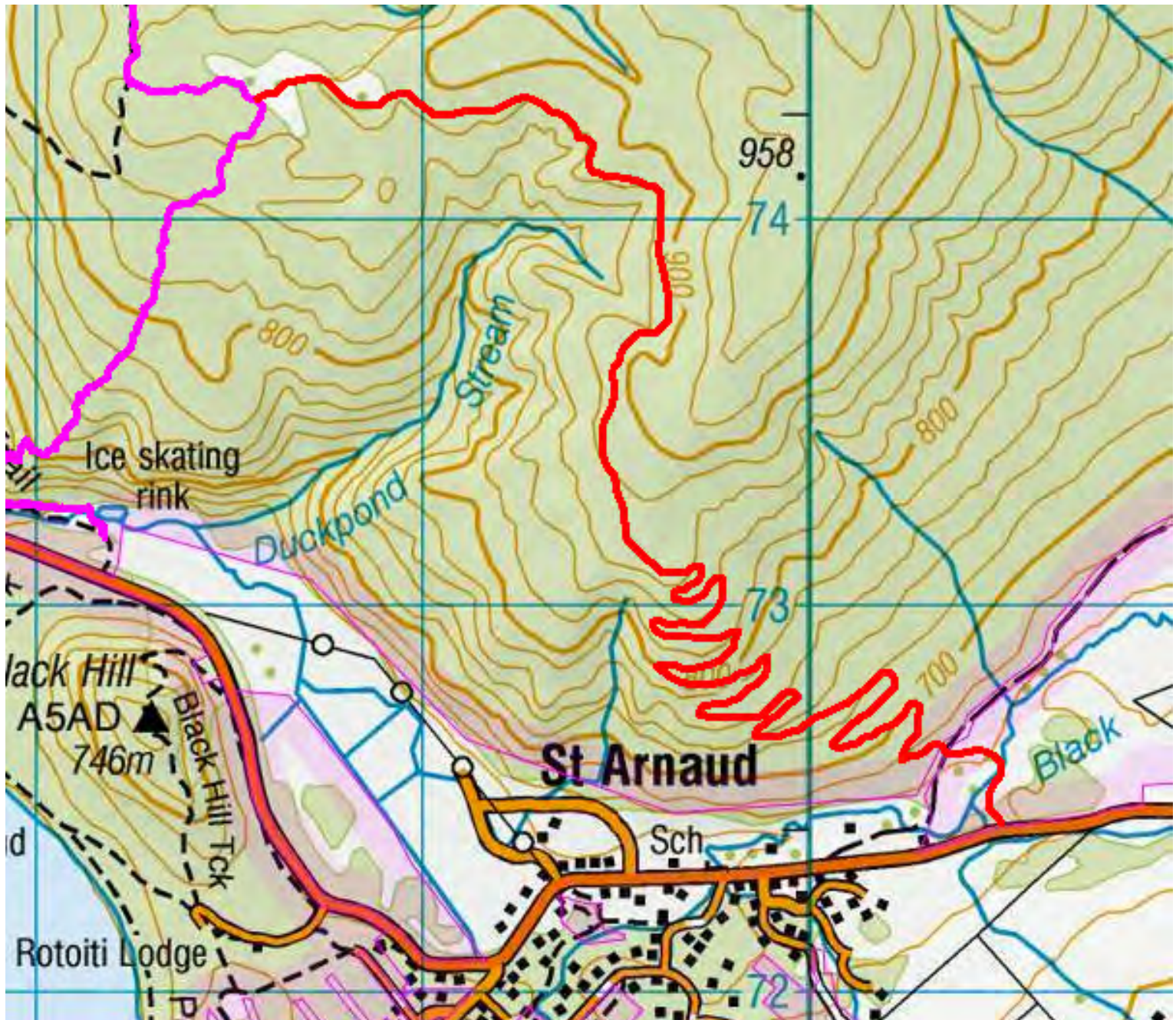
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## Shrek Track

This track has been on the radar for quite some time. Our plan is to make it a two-way climbing track from the east end of St Arnaud village up to the top of Duck Down. This will create the opportunity for several more loop options.

The name came from Rob discovering a wild and woolly sheep up in the bush when he was scouting the route.





Proposed Shrek Track shown in red. Duck Down in magenta.

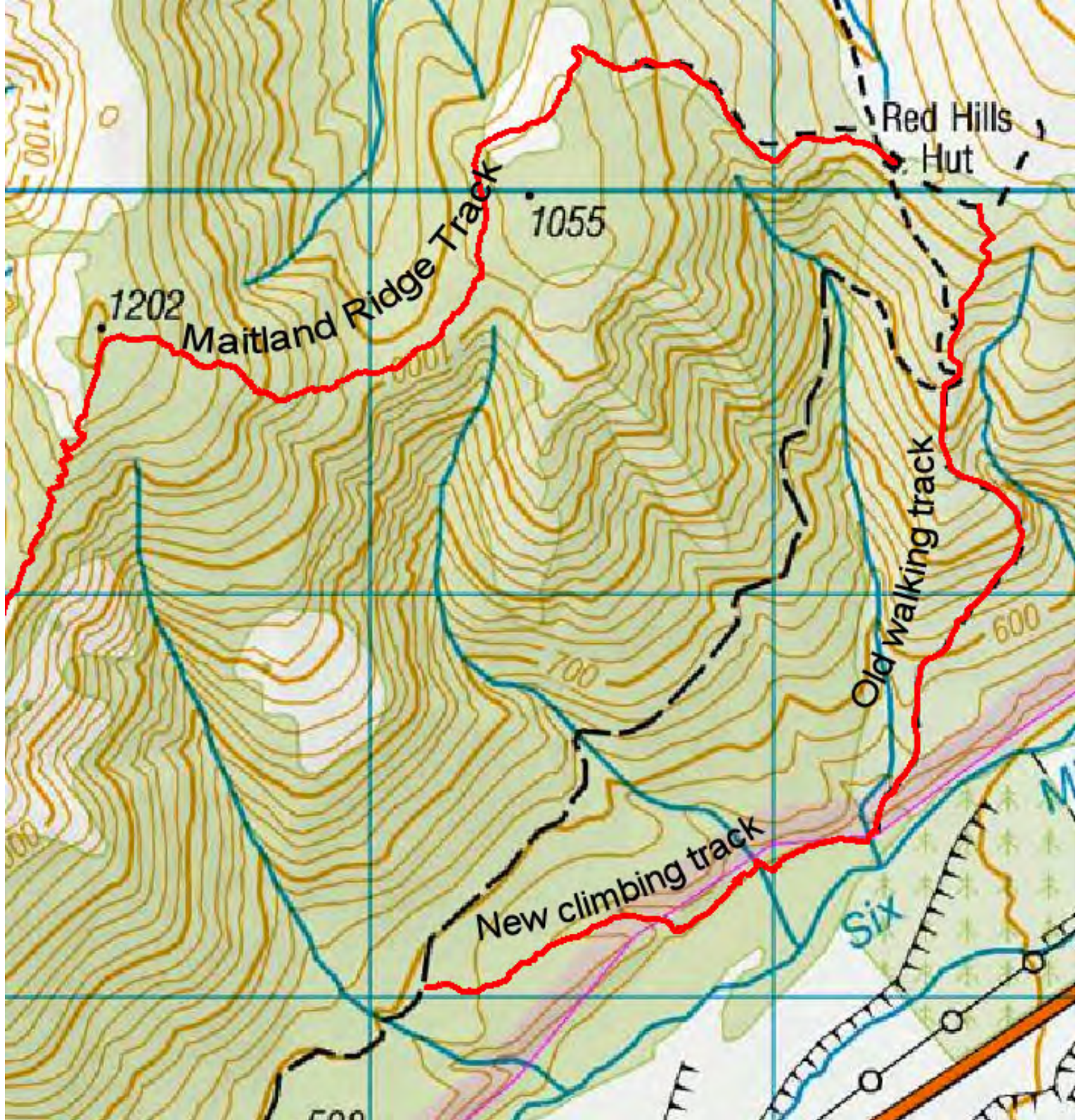
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## **Red Hills Downhill**

We have had a number of requests to build a singletrack down from Red Hills Hut so as to make use of the over 300 metres of vertical otherwise wasted riding down the 4wd road when doing the Maitland Ridge Track. There is an old dis-used walking track that could be opened up with minimum effort and then a 2km track climbing 80 metres back up to the road through kanuka regrowth. It would also create a shorter ride up Red Hills 4wd road and back down the proposed track. A lollipop configuration if you like.



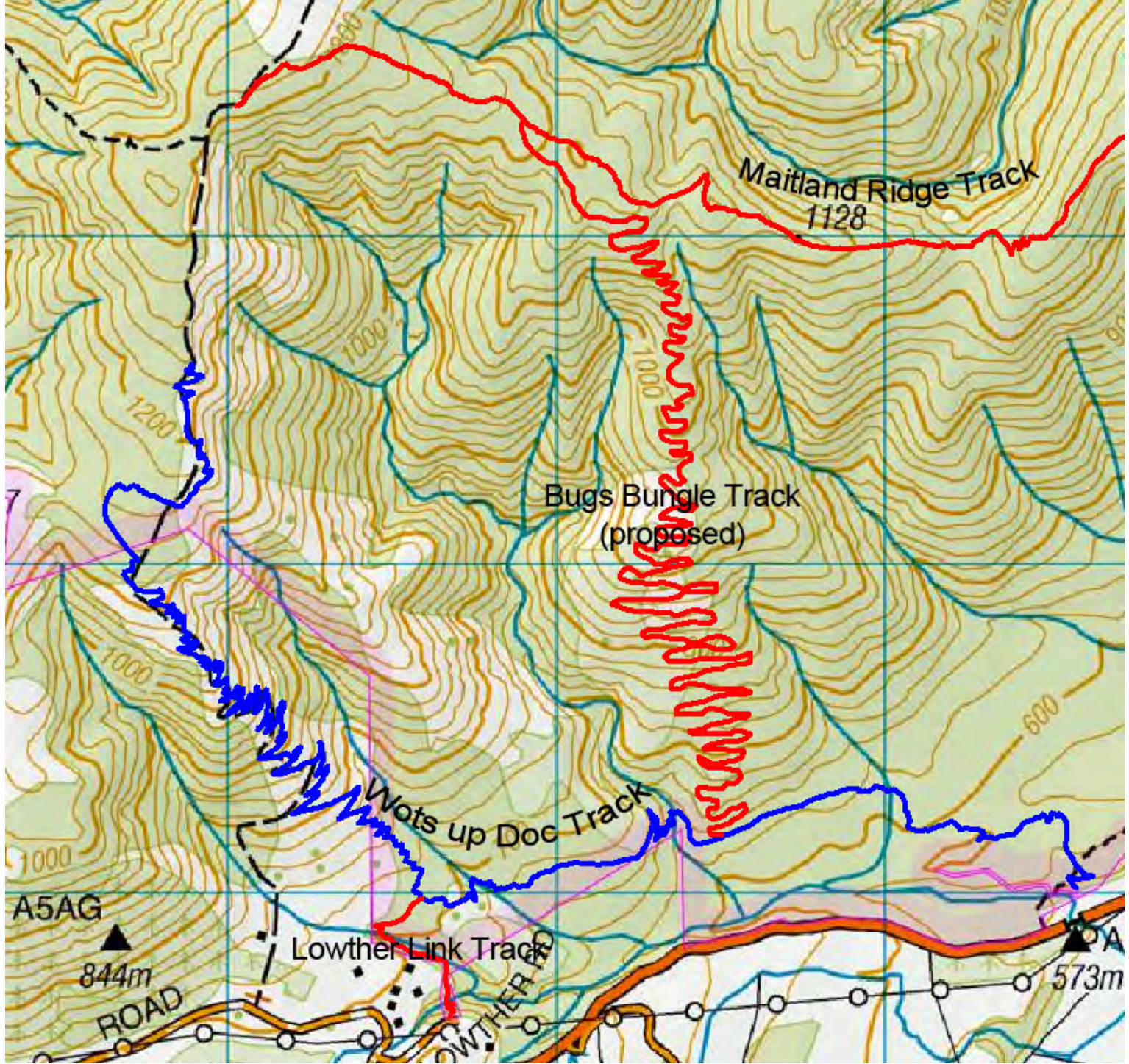


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## Bugs Bungle

The completion of Wots up Doc has created a track that will be popular with e-bikers and to give this type of rider the option to do an intermediate grade loop we will put forward a proposal to create Bugs Bungle Track. It would branch off the first part of Maitland Ridge and descend a prominent spur and join Wots up Doc near the rock ford on Upper Six Mile Creek.





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