





Crosslands to Cowan

 5 h 30 min to 7 h 30 min

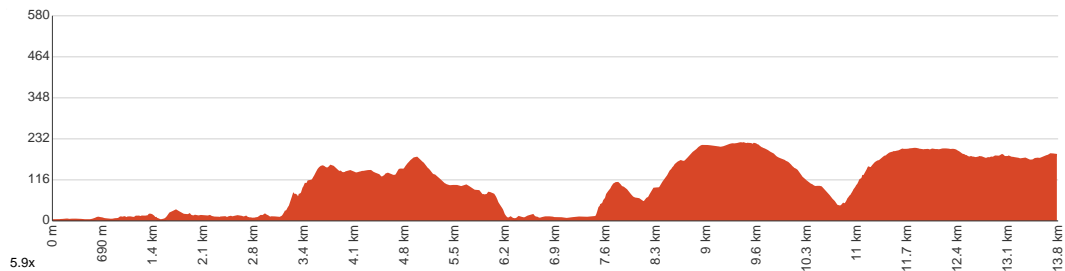

13.8 km
One way


↑ 890 m
↓ 706 m


Hard track



This section of the Great North Walk starts from the Crosslands camping area and winds north alongside Berowra creek, passing through Berowra Waters and climbing up into Cowan. This day walk provides great views of the Berowra creek from the Naa Badu Lookout and, as it finishes at the Cowan train station, there are fairly frequent trains running, providing a good transport option for the trip home. Let us begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 4 of 6 Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely	
Quality of track	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
Gradient	Very steep (4/6)
Signage	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)
Experience Required	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
Weather	Foretasted & unexpected storms and severe weather may impact on navigation and safety (4/6)

Getting to the start: From Pacific Motorway, M1

- Turn on to Pacific Highway Offramp then drive for 3.8 km
- Turn left onto Pacific Highway, B83 and drive for another 8.3 km
- Keep right onto Pacific Highway, B83 and drive for another 75 m
- Continue onto Peats Ferry Road and drive for another 780 m
- Turn right onto Galston Road and drive for another 2.4 km
- Turn right onto Somerville Road and drive for another 6.6 km

Before you start any journey ensure you;

- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are healthy and fit enough for this journey

If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

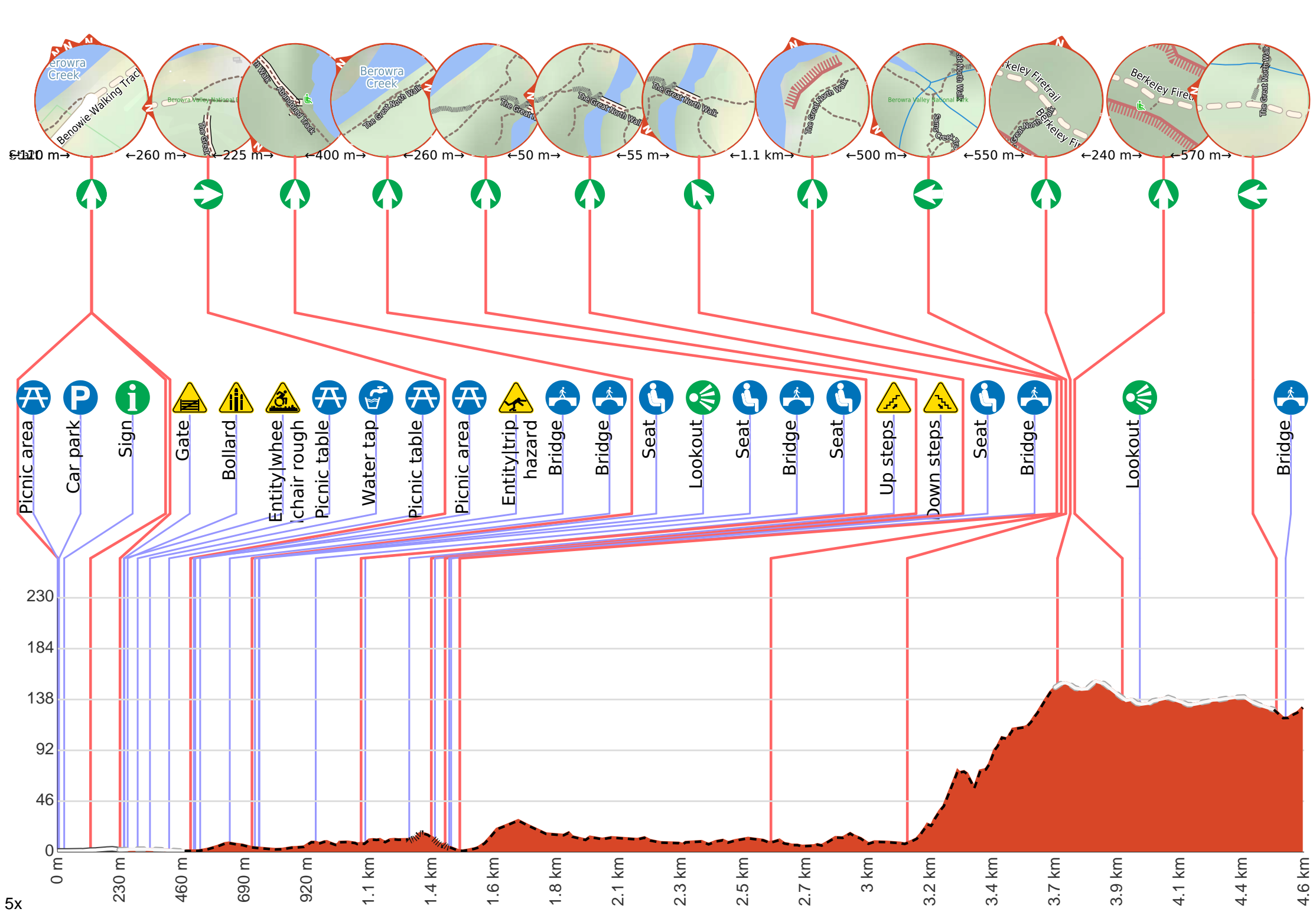
Share
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com/j/RECNG8)
[j/RECNG8](https://bushwalk.com/j/RECNG8)

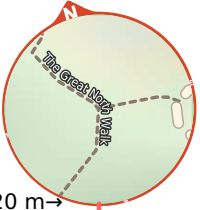












← 520 m →



Viewpoint



Viewpoint



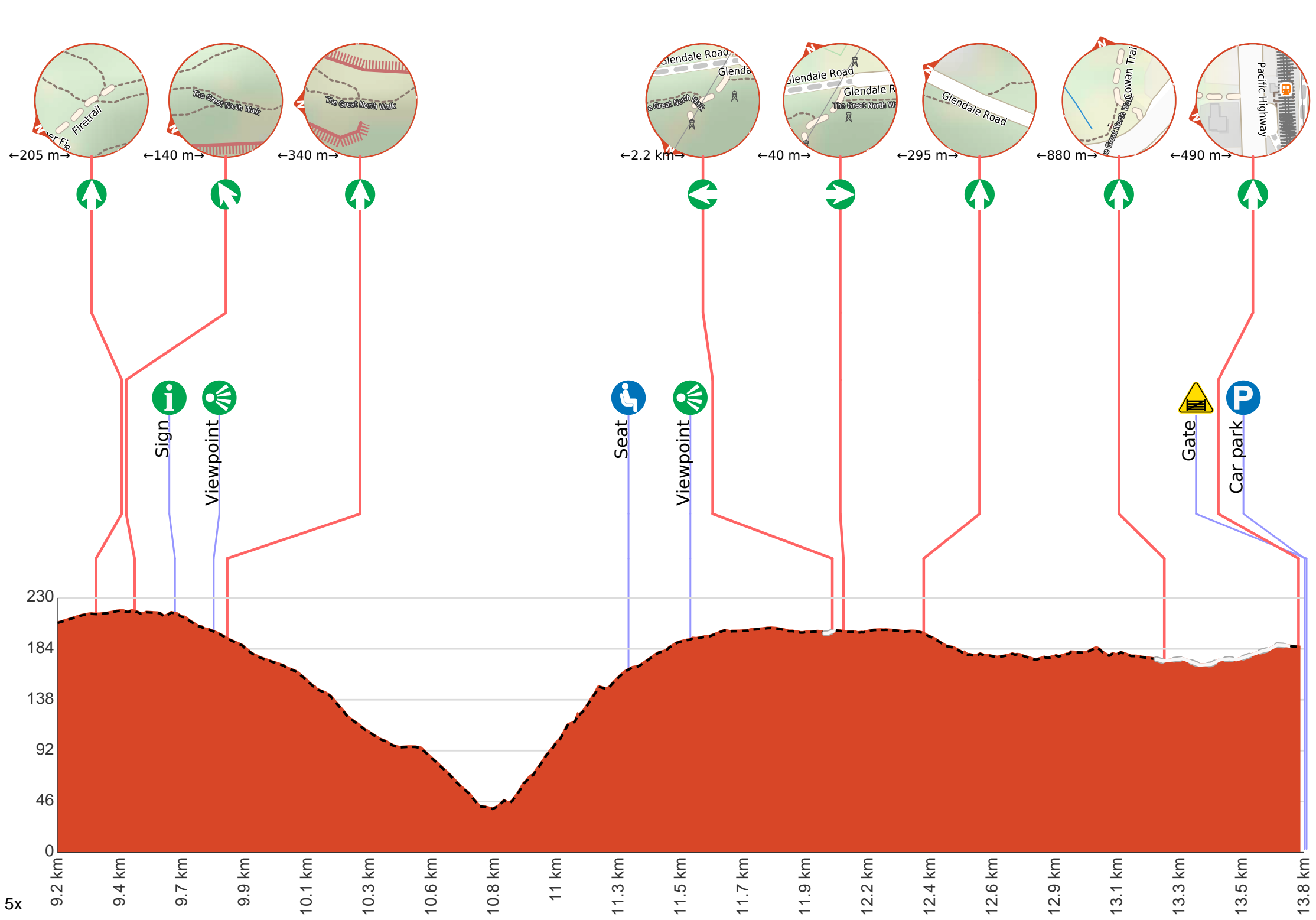
Restaurant



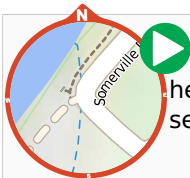
Store



Water tap



Getting started: From the car park, this walk follows the flat dirt path between the road (on the right) and creek (on the left). The path leads through the casuarina trees for about 120m to pass the boat ramp. After another 120m this walk comes to a locked gate at the northern end of the car park. There is also a wetland through the trees to the right worth noticing.



From the Somerville Road **Start** heading along Somerville Road (a service road).



Crosslands (about 10 m back from the start).



Crosslands Reserve is lovely and long mixed use picnic area, spanning along the edge of Berowra Creek. There are picnic tables, electric barbecues, toilets, car parking, a children's playground, garbage bins, camping area, toilets and town water. The southern part of Crosslands is managed by Hornsby Council and the northern half by the NPWS within the Berowra Valley National Park. The first inhabitants of this area were a subgroup of the Dharug people who enjoyed the sandstone caves, fish and abundant plant life in the area. It is now managed by Hornsby Shire Council, but in 1856 Matthew Charlton asked Burton Crossland to be caretaker on this area. Burton built a house and made a living by harvesting timber, growing fruit, fishing and boat-building.



There is a car park (about 5 m back from the start).



Find the sign at the start.



After another 95 m (at the intersection of Somerville Road & Canoe entry point) **continue straight**, to head along Somerville Road.



After another 110 m (at the intersection of Benowie Walking Track & Somerville Road) **continue straight**, to head along Benowie Walking Track (a vehicle track).



After another 15 m head through/around the gate.



After another 15 m head through the bollard.



Then find the "Wheelchair Rough" (on your left).



Link from carpark to path is across exposed ground (muddy after rain) and between timber bollards that are 80cm high and 1.5m apart.



After another 50 m find the "Picnic Table" (on your right).



A timber slat picnic table and bench seat. The table is 77cm high, 73cm deep and 2.4m wide. The seats are 47cm high, 29cm deep and 2.4m wide. On a concrete slab (3x5.5m) and about 7m (across grass) from the path.



After another 45 m pass the "tap" (on your right).



After another 70 m find the "Picnic Table" (15 m on your left).



A timber slat picnic table and bench seats. The table is 77cm high, 73cm deep and 2.4m wide. The seats are 47cm high, 29cm deep and 2.4m wide. On a concrete slab (2.8x4.1m) and about 11m (across grass) from the path.



After another 60 m (from the Benowie Walking Track) **continue straight** (a walking track).



After another 20 m **turn right**.



After another 15 m find the "Crosslands North Picnic area" (15 m on your left).



The northern section of Crosslands is in Berowra Valley NP and is a less formal picnic area compared with the southern area. There is a toilet block and a few sandy beaches with direct access to the water. Here you will find a few picnic tables and shelters, as well as garbage bins. The eastern side is home to a boardwalk exploring the estuarine wetland. A pleasant area to rest and enjoy the water. Fires are only permitted in formally established fire places .



After another 20 m find the "Trip Hazard" (on your left).



There is a 4cm step from between the dirt path and the northern end of the timber boardwalk.



Then cross the bridge (about 55 m long)



After another 75 m cross the bridge (about 85 m long)



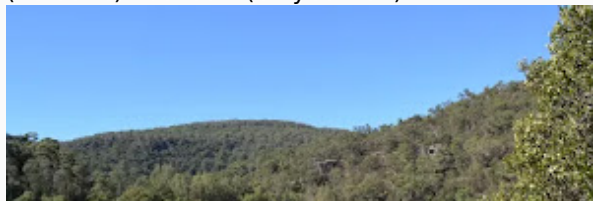
Continue straight.



After another 10 m pass a seat (10 m on your left)., has a backrest.



After another 15 m find the "Berowra Creek (Estuarie) Lookout" (on your left).



The Estuarie lookout over Berowara Creek is found at the end of the wheelchair-accessible walk in Crosslands area. The timber lookout platform provides great views over Berowra Creek, the timber fence is 95cm high. There are also information signs about the local flora and fauna and the 'Original Inhabitants'. There are two timber bench seats encouraging you to take some time to soak up this view.



Then find the "Seat" (15 m on your left).



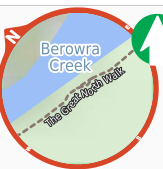
Two timber slat bench seats built into timber viewing platform. Each seat are 41cm high, 28cm deep and 2.5m wide with a 54cm high backrest.



After another 205 m cross the bridge (about 20 m long)



After another 160 m pass a seat (on your left)., has a backrest.



Continue straight.



After another 175 m head up the 65 steps (about 60 m long)



After another 20 m **continue straight.**



After another 15 m head down the 72 steps (about 60 m long)



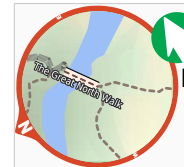
Continue straight.



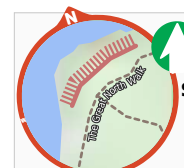
After another 15 m pass a seat (on your left)., has no backrest.



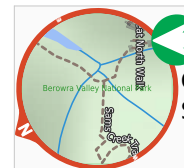
After another 7 m cross the bridge (about 30 m long)



From the Calna Creek Bridge **veer left.**



After another 1.1 km **continue straight.**



After another 500 m (from the Sams Creek Track) **turn left**, to head along Sams Creek Track.



After another 550 m (at the intersection of Berkely Firetrail & Great North Walk - Berkely Firetrail) **continue straight**, to head along Great North Walk - Berkely Firetrail (a vehicle track).



After another 240 m (from the Great North Walk - Berkely Firetrail) **continue straight**, to head along Great North Walk - Berkely Firetrail.



After another 65 m find the "Naa Badu Lookout" (on your left).



Naa Badu Lookout offers magnificent views south over Berowra Creek as well as over Sams and Calna Creeks. Naa Badu means 'See water' in the Aboriginal tribal language of the Dharug people. It is believed that Berowra Creek was the boundary between the Dharug and Guringai Aboriginal peoples. The lookout is fenced, has a bench seat, picnic table and a fair amount of natural shade.



After another 50 m find the "Berowra Waters Garden House" (25 m on your left).



#####CLOSED##### This picturesque little restaurant sits on the eastern side of Berowra Creek and is just a hop, skip and a jump from the ferry. With breakfast, lunch and dinner menus, the Garden House Restaurant is a great spot for those looking to tap into the Berowra Valley's full potential. For information on bookings and opening hours phone (02)9456 2955.



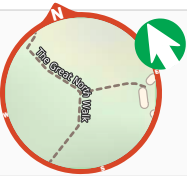
After another 25 m pass the water tap (7 m on your left).



After another 500 m (at the intersection of Berkely Firetrail & Great North Walk - Berkely Firetrail) **turn left** (a walking track).



After another 35 m cross the bridge (about 20 m long)



After another 470 m **veer left**.



After another 235 m come to the viewpoint (8 m on your left).



After another 870 m come to the viewpoint (on your left).



After another 480 m pass the "Berowra Waters Garden House - closed" (15 m on your left).



After another 140 m **veer left**.



After another 150 m pass the "GNW Visitor Book" (15 m on your right).



After another 140 m come to the viewpoint (20 m on your left).



After another 50 m **continue straight**.



After another 1.5 km pass a seat (10 m on your right).



After another 225 m come to the viewpoint (7 m on your right).



After another 520 m **turn left**.



After another 40 m **turn right**.



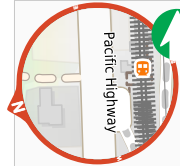
After another 295 m (from the Glendale Road) **continue straight**.



After another 880 m (from the Cowan Trail) **continue straight**, to head along Cowan Trail (a vehicle track).



After another 520 m head through/around the gate.



At the intersection of Pacific Highway & Cowan Trail **continue straight** (a walking track).



After another 20 m to find the car park.



After another 15 m come to the end.



About 50 m past the end is a toilet.

Mo-Fr