

# Self guided bushwalks Beecroft-Cheltenham Link Track

## Important information

**Walk length:** Walks range from several hundred metres up to 2km in length taking between 5mins to 45mins

**Difficulty:** Grade 2 (easy/moderate)

**Starting points:** Entrances to the reserve start at the ends of Allerton Road, Orchard Road, Burns Road South, Austral Avenue, Kenwick Lane, York Street, Mary Street, Welham Street, and off Kirkham Road, Murray Road, Castle Howard Road and Cheltenham Road.



**Getting there:** Car, local bus (553 from Beecroft Station), train (10min walk from Beecroft Station, 15min walk from Cheltenham Station).

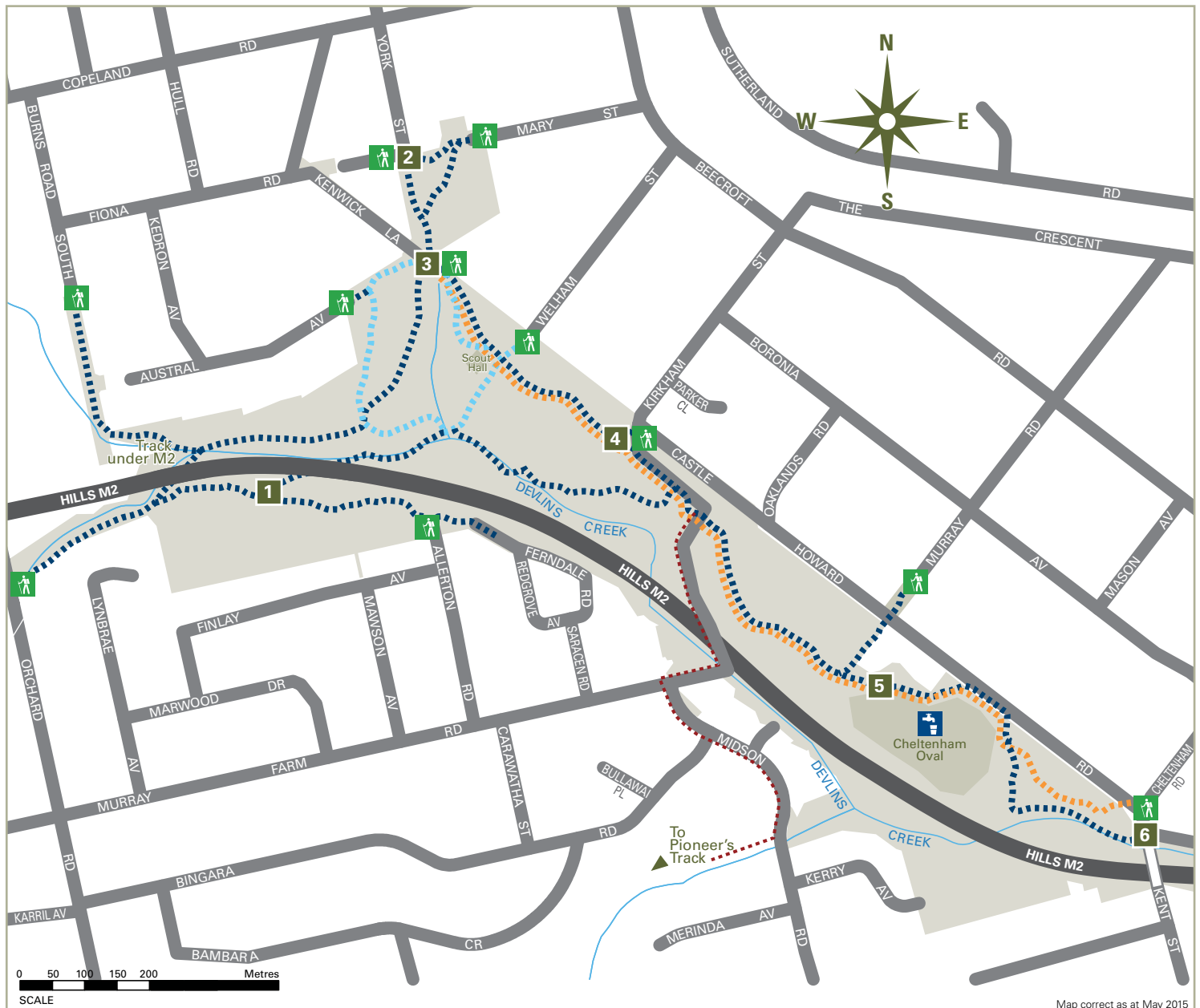
**Facilities:** Sports field, interpretive signage

**Drinking water:** Cheltenham Oval







**Nearest public toilet:** Beecroft Village Green, Beecroft Road, Beecroft (24hrs)

## LEGEND

 Walking track	 Bike track 1.5m	 1 Interpretive signage
 Bushland	 Scout Hall Loop 1.6km	 Drinking water
 Roads	 Kirkham Street to Pioneers Track 600m	 Access points
 Creeks		



**Interpretive signage** (for more information see overleaf)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  1 A rich indigenous history |  2 Paradise Saved                 |  3 Towering Timbers          |
|  4 Caring for our Bushland   |  5 Protecting our native wildlife |  6 Finding feathered friends |

For more information visit  
[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks](http://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks)

# Information

# Beecroft-Cheltenham Link Track

This trail network explores some excellent examples of bushland remnants in the urban environment and despite being surrounded by homes and roads, the reserves offer a peaceful respite to the busyness of modern life.

## **DUE TO AREAS OF LIMITED MOBILE COVERAGE, DOWNLOAD THIS PDF BEFORE YOU BEGIN.**

A series of interpretive signs placed throughout the reserves are aimed at helping walkers to engage with the bushland as they amble along these relatively easy trails.

For thousands of years this bushland formed a part of the seasonal range of Aboriginal family groups. The surrounding landscape contributed to their food, medicine, shelter and other material and cultural needs.

Not long after British colonisation in 1788, timber-getters began moving through the area harvesting the massive trees that grew in this region. Indeed, some of the trails in the current network may have originated as old logging paths. As the largest trees disappeared, orchards, market gardens, nurseries, and poultry farms sprang up. At first they were little more than cleared islands in a sea of bushland. Following the opening of the railway line in 1886, urban development of the surrounding suburbs began in earnest until finally most of the vegetation was removed and the bushland became the islands.

As early as 1893, local unsold residential blocks were dedicated for Public Recreation, and over the years donations of land from Council and residents combined to form these bushland reserves left to us today. In 1997, the bushland was effectively split in two by the construction of the M2 Motorway. Nevertheless, these bushland corridors still provide important habitat for native fauna and are a welcome respite from the monotony of the urban landscape.

The reserves are dominated by the ecological community known as **Blackbutt Gully Forest**. The extremely rare **Blue Gum High Forest** community, of which less than 5% remains in existence, also occurs in the northern areas of Chilworth Reserve.

Due to a diversity of growing conditions there is a relatively high variety of plant species found throughout the reserves. Some 240 species have been recorded, with 21 being listed as regionally and locally significant and at least 2 being listed as threatened. The main canopy species in the reserves are **Blue Gum** (*Eucalyptus saligna*), **Blackbutt** (*E. pilularis*), **Red Mahogany** (*E. resinifera*), **Turpentine** (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), **Sydney Red Gum** (*Angophora costata*), **Red Bloodwood** (*Corymbia gummifera*), and **Forest Oak** (*Allocasuarina torulosa*).

These reserves also provide feeding and breeding sites for a wide range of fauna including birds, mammals, reptiles and invertebrates. Threatened species such as the **Eastern Bentwing-bat** (*Miniopterus schreibersilli oceanensis*), **Grey-headed Flying-fox** (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), **Powerful Owl** (*Ninox strenua*), and **Glossy Black-Cockatoo** (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) have been recorded in the area.

Over the years both Hornsby Shire Council and local Bushcare volunteers have invested immense time and resources into restoring and maintaining these bushland reserves.

## **RISK WARNING**

Hornsby Shire Council has taken all care in producing these notes and map. Bushwalking can be hazardous. Trails are unsealed and you may encounter slippery or loose surfaces, creek crossings, fallen timber and sloping ground. Poisonous plants and animals or biting insects may be encountered. Snakes are rare but may be seen in warmer seasons. Please keep to designated trails. Dress for the conditions and wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Take plenty of water, food, sunscreen and always take a map.

Before leaving tell someone where you will be going and when you expect to return. Check the local weather forecast. Please do not undertake this walk during Total Fire Ban days. Check the Rural Fire Service website [rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans) or phone **1800 679 737** if you suspect a Total Fire Ban may be in force.

**In case of emergency dial '000', but be aware that not all areas have reliable mobile reception.**

For more information visit  
[hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks)

