

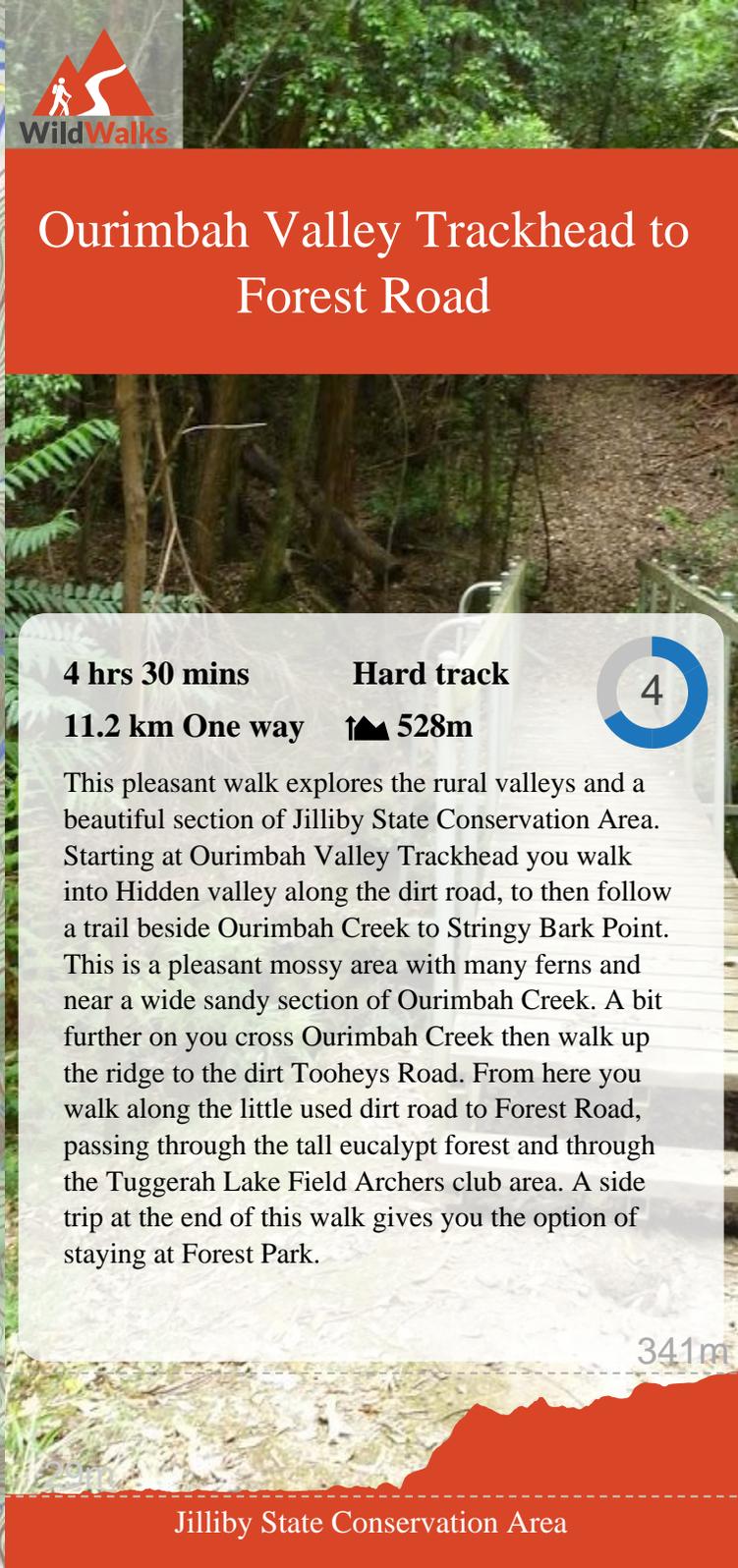
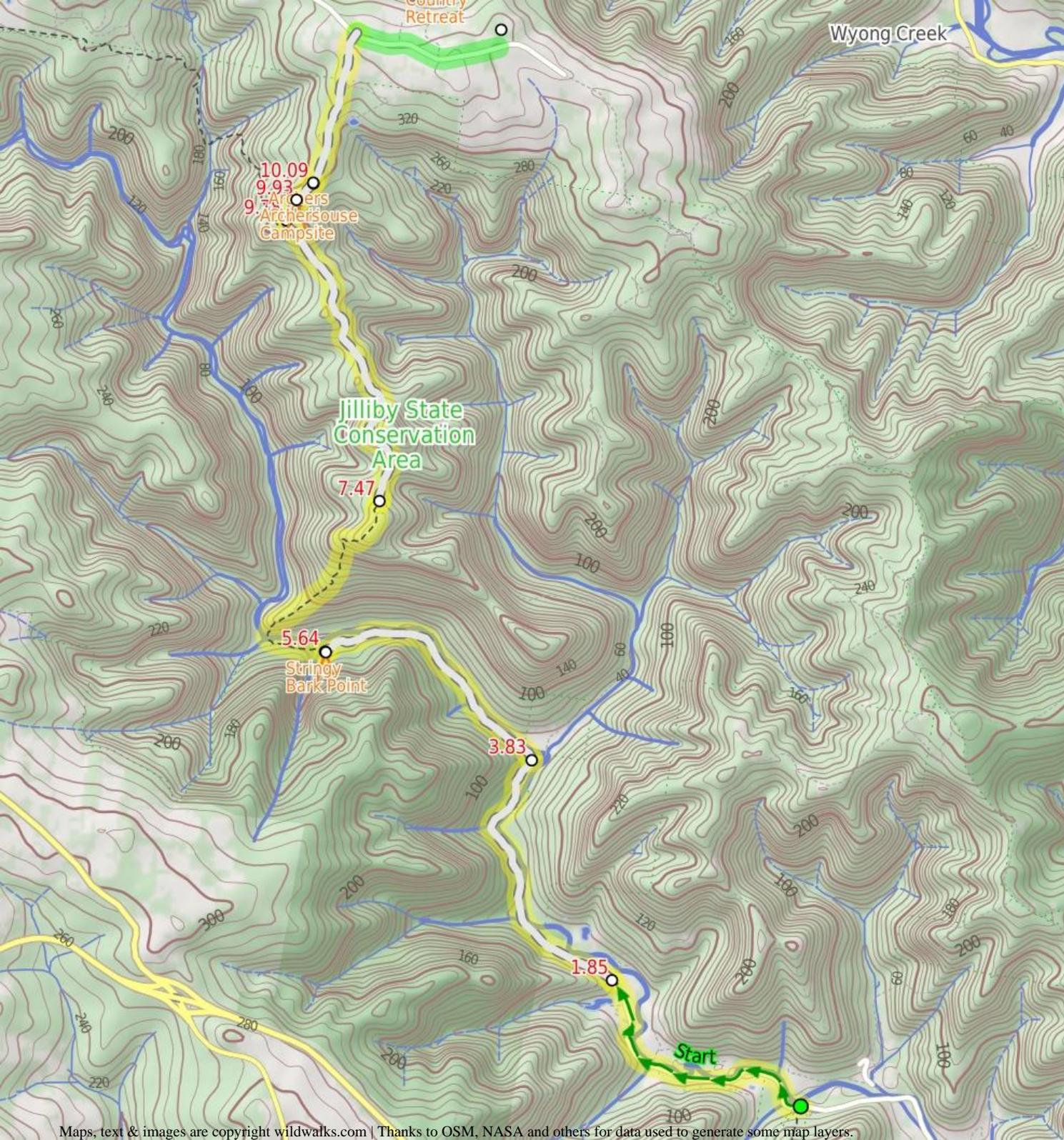


# Ourimbah Valley Trackhead to Forest Road

**4 hrs 30 mins**     **Hard track**  
**11.2 km One way**     **▲ 528m**



This pleasant walk explores the rural valleys and a beautiful section of Jilliby State Conservation Area. Starting at Ourimbah Valley Trackhead you walk into Hidden valley along the dirt road, to then follow a trail beside Ourimbah Creek to Stringy Bark Point. This is a pleasant mossy area with many ferns and near a wide sandy section of Ourimbah Creek. A bit further on you cross Ourimbah Creek then walk up the ridge to the dirt Tooheys Road. From here you walk along the little used dirt road to Forest Road, passing through the tall eucalypt forest and through the Tuggerah Lake Field Archers club area. A side trip at the end of this walk gives you the option of staying at Forest Park.



341m

Jilliby State Conservation Area

### 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 Ourimbah Valley Trackhead (gps: -33.3174, 151.3001). Car: There is free parking available.

Traveling by car is the only practical way to get back from Int of Forest and Tooheys Rds (gps: -33.2508, 151.2695). 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.il/ovtfr>

### 0 | Ourimbah Valley Trackhead

*(1.8 km 32 mins)* From the 'Ourimbah Valley Trackhead' (on Ourimbah Creek Rd), this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign downhill along the dirt road. The road soon leads down and across a flat timber vehicle bridge then the road mostly flattens out, winding among the rural properties for almost 300m to pass a 'Palm Grove Nature Reserve' sign and a few 'Hidden Valley' signs. The walk continues along the road for about 700m then comes to the intersection in front of the Hidden Valley property (on your left, not far before another road bridge). This walk continues straight, gently downhill along the wide dirt road to almost immediately pass 'Wombats End' (private road) then cross the flat timber road bridge. After about 400m, the road leads under some high tension power lines then after another 150m of winding past the rural properties, this walk passes a timber 'Hidden Valley' private property shelter and water tank (on your right). A further 100m along the road past this shelter, the walk veers left (ignoring 'Platypus Creek La') to come to a locked gate with a 'Road Closed' sign.

### 1.85 | Int of Platypus Creek La and Ourimbah Creek Rd

*(2 km 36 mins)* Continue straight: From the gate (near the intersection of Ourimbah Creek Road and Platypus Creek La), this walk heads up around the locked gate and follows the Ourimbah Creek Rd trail along the side of the valley for about 800m, where it crosses a culverted creek. From here, the walk continues along the clear trail as it gently undulates alongside Ourimbah Creek (which is down the steep bank on your right) for about 1.2km until coming to a three-way intersection, marked with a 'Great North Walk' sign, just before the gates of 'Forty Acres' property.

### 3.83 | Forty Acres

*(1.8 km 33 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk' sign north-east along the clear trail. This trail gently undulates along the side of Ourimbah Creek (which is down the steep bank on your right) for about 1.6km, then passes a campsite with a metal fireplace (on your right). Here the walk continues along the trail for about 100m to head past a track (on your right, that leads down to the sandy creek) and continues along the main trail for another 150m to come to large clearing and campsite, Stringy Bark Point at the end of the trail (marked with a timber and metal footbridge on the right).

### 5.64 | Stringy Bark Point

This campsite is in a small clearing at Stringy Bark Point, just on the southern side of the bridge. This campsite provides room for a small campfire and a few tents. Water is usually available from the creek running by the campsite, please treat before drinking.

### 5.64 | Stringy Bark Point

*(1.8 km 53 mins)* Veer right: From Stringy Bark Point campsite, this walk heads across the timber and metal footbridge (with a small mossy canyon on your right). Once on the other side of the bridge, the old trail gently undulates west through the bush for about 300m where this walk turns right following a GNW arrow post down a few rock steps. The distinct track leads fairly steeply down to find, then cross, the perennial Ourimbah Creek. This creek may become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain. On the other side, the track leads up the bank then gently up through the dense, leafy forest for about 50m, following a series of GNW arrow posts. The track then starts to lead steeply uphill for about 100m and leaves the dense forest, climbing up onto the more open ridge. Here the track mostly flattens out, leading over a rocky area to then come to a large ant hill. The track now leads uphill for about 250m to pass some cabbage palms (*Livistona australis*). The track starts to climb steeply again for about 150m, up some stone steps (and past a rock with a view) to where the track mostly flattens out again for about 60m, coming to a three-way intersection that is marked with a GNW arrow post. Here the walk veers left and follows this old trail steeply uphill for about 130m, before turning left at another GNW arrow post. This track soon bends sharp right and leads up some stone steps then comes to an intersection (with the same old trail). Here the walk leads gently uphill for about 30m, over the a rise (ignoring the faint track on your right), after which the track leads gently down through the tall forest for about 300m and comes to an T-intersection with the dirt Tooheys Rd, marked with a 'The Great North Walk' signpost.

### 7.47 | Int of GNW and Tooheys Road south

*(2.3 km 52 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Camping Area' sign north, down along the wide dirt road. The road soon crosses a saddle and starts to lead uphill, then meanders (quite steeply in places) along the ridge and through a variety of forests for about 2.2km, before passing a 'Caution Archery In Progress At Any Time - Keep to the Main Track' sign. Just over 100m past this sign, the road leads up to an intersection marked with a GNW arrow post, and the signposted GNW track (on your left)

### 9.78 | Int of Old GNW track and Tooheys Rd

*(160 m 3 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post uphill along the wide dirt road. After about 30m, the road bends right (ignoring the trail on the left) and leads gently up for about 150m to pass below the campsite, then come to the signposted intersection with the 'Camping Area' (on your left)

### 9.93 | Archers Campsite

This informally named campsite is found in Jilliby State Conservation Area, and is used regularly by members of the Tuggerah Lake Field Archers club. This is a basic campsite with a water tank and shed used for hanging shower water bags. The large open camping area has a few existing fire scars and a few flat grassy areas. (There are other facilities 150m further north along the dirt trail at the club house.)

### 9.93 | Archers Campsite

*(160 m 3 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection in front of the camping area, this walk follows the sandy road, gently downhill whilst initially keeping the camping area behind and to your left. After about 150m, the road leads down across a saddle, past the water tank to the front of the 'Tuggerah Lake Field Archers' club house

### 10.09 | Archers Club House

The Tuggerah Lake Field Archers club house is found on the dirt Tooheys Road in Jilliby State Conservation Area. The club house is used irregularly on weekends, and these facilities should not be relied upon. The club house

had some picnic tables under a large covered meeting area, a wood fired BBQ, toilet and water tank. A good place to stop and rest.

### 10.09 | Archers Club House

*(1.1 km 18 mins)* Continue straight: From the club house, this walk heads north along the wide sandy road, heading gently uphill (directly away from the front of the club house). The walk continues gently up along the sandy road, ignoring many side tracks (archery ranges) for about 400m to then pass the 'Jilliby State Conservation Area' sign, as you leave the park. The walk continues up along the dirt road for another 600m, between two farms, ignoring the side gates to come to a T-intersection with the sealed Forest Road.

### 11.18 | Optional sidetrip to Forest Park Country Retreat

*(960 m 16 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads east gently uphill along the sealed Forest Rd (in the opposite direction to the GNW arrow post). The road gently meanders past a number of rural properties for almost 1km to come to the signposted 'Forest Park Country Retreat', on your left. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

### 11.18 | Forest Park Country Retreat

Forest Park is lovely retreat on Forest Road, a short detour from the Great North Walk. The well presented two bedroom home is set on a large rural block with no visible neighbors. With your exclusive use, you can enjoy such luxuries as a spa bath, a well equipped kitchen, air conditioning, TV and DVD player and a gas log fireplace. Mid-week, a single night is \$250 - on weekends, there is two night minimum stay. Price includes breakfast and for an extra \$20 a head, your hosts can provide a hamper for dinner. The retreat is signposted and found at 252 Forest Road, Kulnura PH (02) 4376 1340.