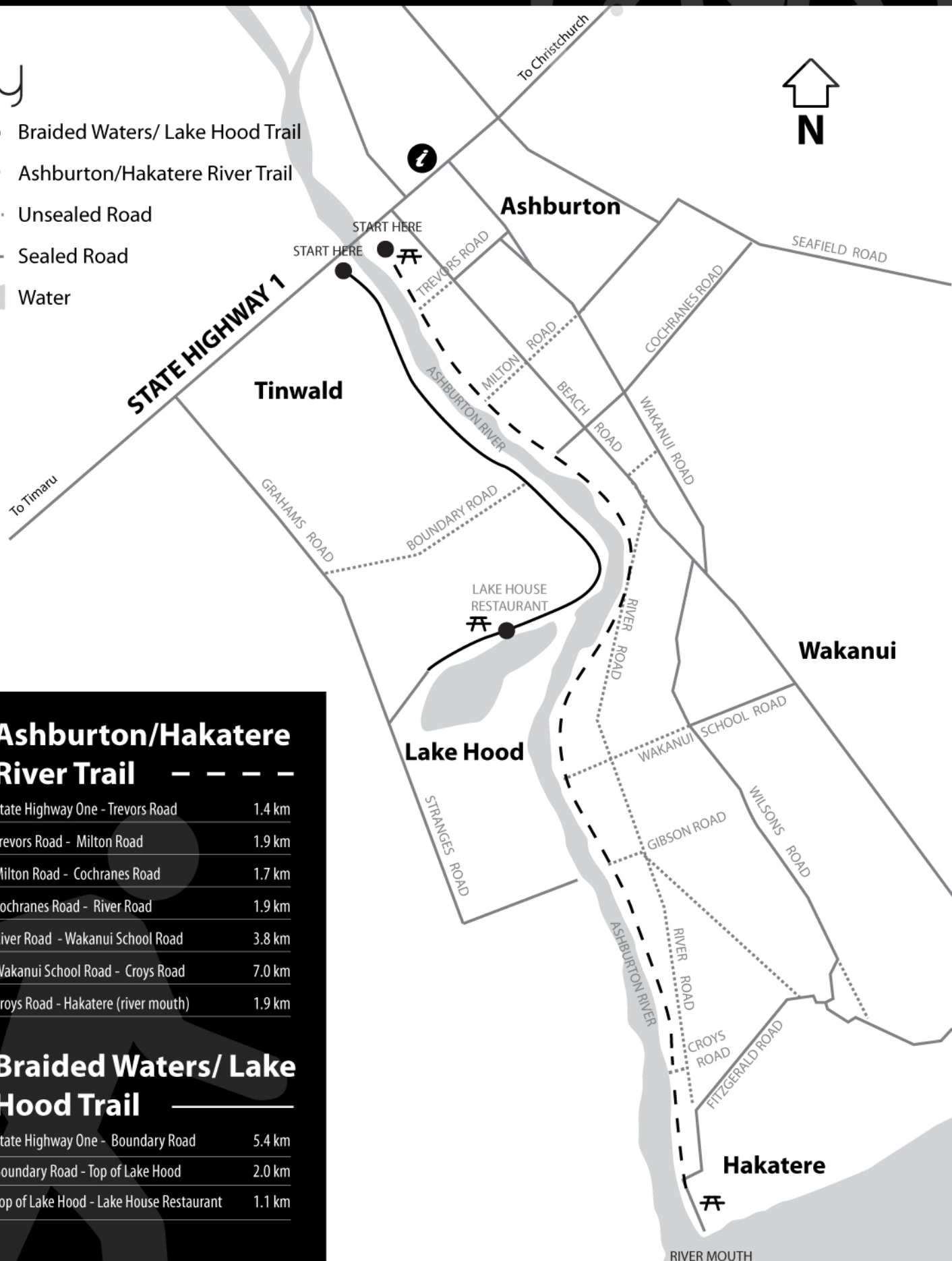




# ASHBURTON Walk & Cycle Trails

## Key

- Braided Waters/ Lake Hood Trail
- Ashburton/Hakatere River Trail
- Unsealed Road
- Sealed Road
- Water



### Ashburton/Hakatere River Trail

State Highway One - Trevors Road	1.4 km
Trevors Road - Milton Road	1.9 km
Milton Road - Cochranes Road	1.7 km
Cochranes Road - River Road	1.9 km
River Road - Wakanui School Road	3.8 km
Wakanui School Road - Croys Road	7.0 km
Croys Road - Hakatere (river mouth)	1.9 km

### Braided Waters/ Lake Hood Trail

State Highway One - Boundary Road	5.4 km
Boundary Road - Top of Lake Hood	2.0 km
Top of Lake Hood - Lake House Restaurant	1.1 km



# ASHBURTON Walk & Cycle Trails

## The Ashburton/Hakatere River Trail

The Ashburton/Hakatere River Trail is an easy walk or cycle which follows the Ashburton River from the Ashburton Township to the sea coast at Hakatere. The trail has an air of tranquillity and beauty once the township is left behind, as it meanders through riverside willows and past quiet farmland. The river mouth is an area of dramatic beauty. Along its 19 kilometres the trail has several access points allowing sections of the trail to be enjoyed individually. The trail can be traversed in either direction. From Ashburton the trail begins at the picnic area on the northern bank of the river, downstream from the State Highway 1 bridge. At the river mouth the trail begins at the upper picnic area overlooking the river flats near the Hakatere Huts. Access is also possible from several side roads, see map.

### Ashburton River

The river is one of the smaller of Canterbury's braided rivers, with the characteristic channels separated by areas of shingle. The riverbed is in a continual state of erosion and movement. The river provides important wildlife habitats, both for fish and birds. Trout and to a lesser extent Salmon, are found in the river, and whitebait may be caught in season at the river mouth. The delta area, leading down to the mouth, is an area of extensive braids and shallow, broken water, which make it an ideal habitat for several species of rare birds.

It was thought that the East Coast Rivers were used by the early Maori as access to the Moa hunting grounds, and artefacts have been found at the mouth of the Ashburton as well as the riverbed near town. During the 17th and 18th Centuries Hakatere was a regular stopping place for the Ngai Tahu people as they travelled along the coast. Hakatere is the original name of the river, it was changed to Ashburton after Lord Ashburton, a member of the Canterbury Association. The river was the focal point of the early settlement at Ashburton. The first inhabitants William and Frances Turton, kept an accommodation house beside the river, and William ferried travellers across the river on horseback.

## The Braided Waters/Lake Hood Trail

Starting in Ashburton at the south end of the State Highway One Ashburton River Bridge, the track meanders 7.4km to the top of lake. Use parking area on the West side of bridge approach, walk under the bridge and turn right, walk 20m parallel to SH 1, look for sign which indicates track. The track passes through plantation areas, natural vegetation and along the bank of the river. Many varieties of birds can be seen and heard. The walk is a comfortable two-hour walk for families. A further 1.1km stage can be undertaken from the top of the Lake to the Lake House Restaurant or a further 7km added by circumnavigating the lake. Alternatively it will take between half an hour and one hour to cycle with almost any type of bike. The trail can be traversed in either direction.

### Lake Hood

The lake, its park like surroundings and Huntingdon Park - form the Ashburton Aquatic Park.

The park is situated 6 km South East of Tinwald with entry from State Highway One just to the south end of Tinwald Township, and is open for all to enjoy. Huntingdon Park is the name given to all of the lake side, and residential living within the development.

In excess of 80 hectares in area, 2,300 metres in length and over 1 kilometre wide – the lake comprises an 8 lane international rowing course, a separate water skiing area, as well as a separate jet skiing area, plus sailing and kayaking, which can all be enjoyed on or around the lake simultaneously.

Although there is no camping allowed at Lake Hood there are public toilets and public gas BBQs which are free to use. The Lake House Restaurant & Bar is open daily from 10:00am till late. Whether you want a cup of coffee or a three course meal, or just a cool drink in the Lake House Bar, you can sit and relax and enjoy the view of the Lake. If you would like to stay overnight at Lake Hood there is B&B accommodation available.

The Braided Waters Cycleway Trust has been established to coordinate and assist a number of small community groups within the Ashburton District that were interested in developing cycle ways.

The current intended planned Ashburton District cycleway route has been designed to maximise infrastructure (canals & stop-banks; quiet backcountry roads), tourism assets, scenic values, heritage values, and development opportunities while encompassing 145km of trail designed to cater for a three-four day riding experience within our district. While two sections of the proposed route are already open for cycling. These consist of an 8.4km section at the Lake Hood end of the trail and a 3km section at the Rakaia end of the 145km proposed route.

For more information please contact the

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