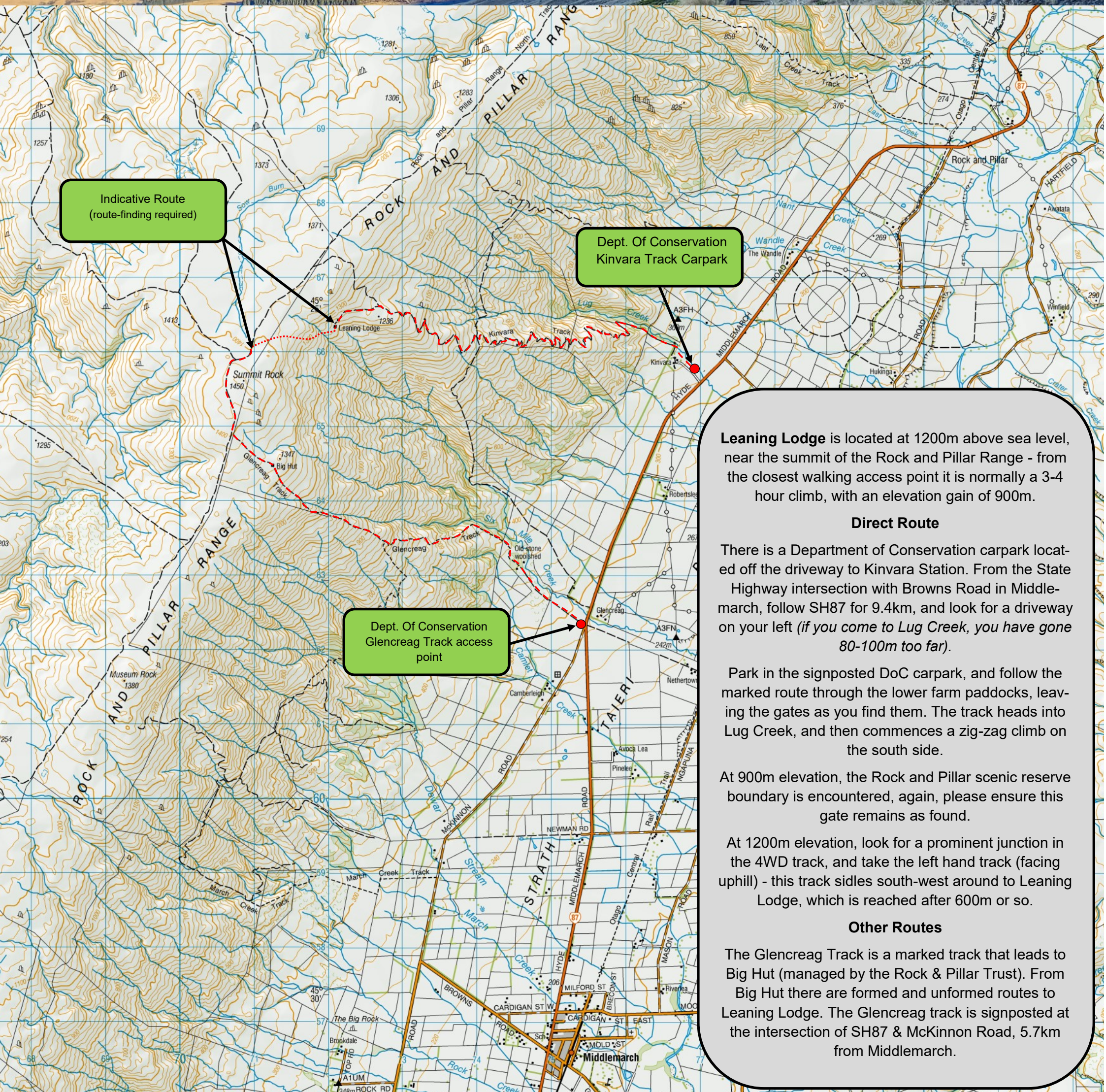


Walking routes to...

Leaning Lodge

Rock and Pillar Range



Leaning Lodge is located at 1200m above sea level, near the summit of the Rock and Pillar Range - from the closest walking access point it is normally a 3-4 hour climb, with an elevation gain of 900m.

Direct Route

There is a Department of Conservation carpark located off the driveway to Kinvara Station. From the State Highway intersection with Browns Road in Middlemarch, follow SH87 for 9.4km, and look for a driveway on your left (*if you come to Lug Creek, you have gone 80-100m too far*).

Park in the signposted DoC carpark, and follow the marked route through the lower farm paddocks, leaving the gates as you find them. The track heads into Lug Creek, and then commences a zig-zag climb on the south side.

At 900m elevation, the Rock and Pillar scenic reserve boundary is encountered, again, please ensure this gate remains as found.

At 1200m elevation, look for a prominent junction in the 4WD track, and take the left hand track (facing uphill) - this track sidles south-west around to Leaning Lodge, which is reached after 600m or so.

Other Routes

The Glencreag Track is a marked track that leads to Big Hut (managed by the Rock & Pillar Trust). From Big Hut there are formed and unformed routes to Leaning Lodge. The Glencreag track is signposted at the intersection of SH87 & McKinnon Road, 5.7km from Middlemarch.

Leaning Lodge is a semi-alpine 10 bunk hut, located near the tops of the Rock and Pillar Range. The earlier version of Leaning Lodge dates back to 1958, and was initially used for skiing. The Otago Tramping and Mountaineering acquired the hut in the early 1970s, and Leaning Lodge soon became an important venue for the clubs forays into cross-country skiing, as well as other winter activities. By the early 2000s, the hut had reached the end of it's useful life and a replacement project commenced.

The OTMC appointed the Leaning Lodge Trust, who have successfully brought the replacement project to a successful end in 2024 with the opening of the new Leaning Lodge. The outcome is a very secure 10-bunk hut located at 1200m, and provides year round access to the wonderful Rock and Pillar Range for a wide range of outdoor users and researchers.

Leaning Lodge requires bookings and payment for all overnight use (*Adults 18+ years - \$16 per night, Child / Youth 5-17 years - \$8 per night, Infants, no charge*). Bookings are administered by the Department of Conservation - please check availability and book/pay before heading to the hut - search for Leaning Lodge on the [DOC website](#), or follow the links on the OTMC and Leaning Lodge Trust websites. Please respect the effort by many people to provide this replacement hut by reading and abiding by the information available in the hut.