

Mapping resources

<http://www.linz.govt.nz/land/maps/linz-topographic-maps/map-chooser>

(To find it easily google “Map-chooser”)

The Linz website is the most comprehensive mapping available. You can identify which topographic map you require and download a digital version. Basic editing skills are required to crop a section to print. To print an A4 at the standard scale of 1:50,000 you need to create a 15 x 10 grid square crop and print this to a full A4 (borderless) page. If you print any smaller than this it is too hard to read in the field. Try and keep (or write) the grid coordinate numbers on your crop as well as the Map number. This may help in emergency situations.

https://www.wams.org.nz/wams_desktop/index.html

The Walking Access mapping site is a great resource to research your walk. It identifies public land. There is an aerial photography layer and a topographic layer. Unfortunately it is now useless for tramping map download because they have removed the grid system that is necessary for grid coordinates.

Editors to prepare your map.

Picasa is a great entry level editor to crop and print your map. It is also a superb entry level image organiser and editor. It is freeware owned by Google who unfortunately has discontinued support for it. Downloads are still available from other sources on the web and it is reasonable to assume it will remain a usable editor for as long as Windows 10 is supported.

Faststone is an example of a free editor available for download online and is a little more comprehensive than Picasa.

I use the free editor Gimp to prepare maps but because it is extremely comprehensive it is daunting to learn on.