

Welcome to Cust

The Terrace Village

An historic village on the terrace of the Cust River valley, with panoramic views across the rural landscape to the rolling hills and the mountains.

Only 40 minutes northwest of Christchurch - visit Cust and stay for a while...



Village Walks

Pedestrian Safety: Footpaths provide a safe place for you to walk. When a footpath is provided, please use it. When there is no footpath walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic – except on curves, where it is best to walk on the opposite side of the road. Particular care is required if accompanied by young children.

All walks at own risk.

Please respect all farm signs and stock and leave all gates as you found them. Thank you.

Cust overlooks rural farmland with panoramic views to rolling hills and Mounts Thomas, Richardson and Oxford. The village was first known as Moeraki Downs, then for a time as Middleton or Middleton-on-the-Cust being the middle town between Oxford and Rangiora. The Cust River, which winds across the valley, was named in 1849 after Sir Edward Cust, who was a member of the Canterbury Association, which organised the immigrant ships and early settlement of Canterbury 1850 - 1853. Later, Cust was adopted as the name of the township when the railway station was established in 1874.

Earlys Road Public Cemetery

Start at the Service Centre, and head east to Earlys Road. Turn right into Earlys Road then follow the footpath opposite the school past the engineering workshop until you come to the sign for the Public Cemetery. Follow the gravel road to the Cust-West Eyreton Cemetery sign, a small Church of England cemetery is on the left. Walk on up the hill to the Presbyterian and Methodist sections where a great view and a seat await you. There are further graves in the paddock to the north which are still on council reserve land. A great spot for a picnic.

Tippings Road Anglican Cemetery

Start at the Service Centre and head west toward Route 72 Café (originally Sam Wood's Butcher shop) where you will find great coffee and a treasure trove of unique gifts.

Just along the road is the Cust Hotel, which was built in the early 1860's as an accommodation house and became licensed in 1863. The licence required stables to be available for traveller's horses and became a favourite 'halfway house' for the bullock wagoner's carting timber from 'Harewood Forest' (Oxford) to Rangiora. The original hotel is incorporated in the present building. Not to be missed are one of Cookie's famous pies!

Continue heading west from the hotel and on the left is our Museum, open Sunday 2pm - 4pm (or at other times by arrangement – contact Bernard Kingsbury [President] T/F: +64 3 312 5839). The museum can provide detailed information about pre-European history, the settlement, cemeteries and development of Cust and the surrounding districts.

Cross the main road to the War Memorial and along to Away with the Fairys - the fairy, bear & patchwork shop used to be the old Blacksmiths. Return to the War Memorial and follow signs down the hill to Mill Road and the Cust Community Centre. This is on the site of the former Cust Railway Station 1874 – 1959. The white wooden gates are the original railway station gates. Three tennis courts, a children's play area, the Jack Graham Reserve and picnic area with riverside access are available for all to enjoy.

Behind the Community Centre are easy steps which will take you past the historic St James Anglican Church and back on to Cust Road. The brick bell tower on the church was donated by the Cust family and erected in 1882 replacing the original wooden structure of 1870.

If you continue west along Cust Road you will find Roses at Cust. This end of the township, west of St James Church was known as 'Irish Town' after the many Irish settlers who lived there. Tippings Road Cemetery is a short distance further on and there you will be rewarded with some spectacular views of the Alps and surrounding mountain ranges.

Circular walks

Follow the colour coded trails to complete various circular walks. Main access to the Cust Domain is on Mill Road - this spacious 11 hectares contains sports fields, equestrian arena, camping and picnic areas. A small area has recently been planted with native plants as part of Cust School's environmental project.

When heading north, at the junction of Reids and Tippings Road turn left until you reach a track (paper road). This is Elliotts Road which continues to a steep climb to provide a panoramic view from Summerhill.

Thanks to Waimakariri District Council for assistance with copying.



