

Hawea River True Right

Progress update report

Date: 22 June 2026

Status: Final

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UPPER CLUTHA
Tracks Trust.

Progress made to date

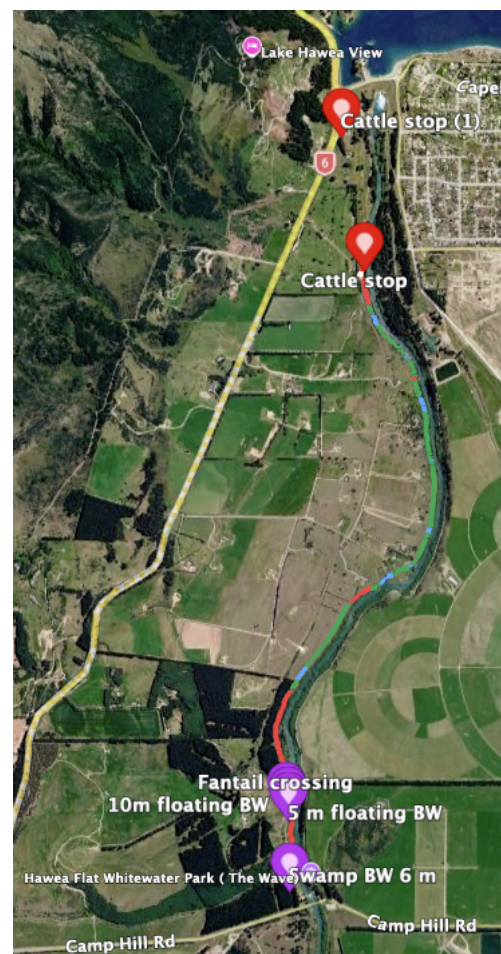
The track is designed to have a natural feel, with minimal construction, while achieving Grade 3 standards and remaining accessible for adaptive bikes and off-road baby strollers. This complements the Grade 2 commuter track on the True Left bank.

Construction began in March 2026. The project is on track for completion of the main construction works by the end of June, with the first native restoration planting commencing in July.

- 1,480m of new track built (red)
- 2,105m of trimmed vegetation on “natural ground” trail (green)
- 1,362m of trimmed vegetation and reshaped existing track (blue)
- 21m elevated boardwalk installed
- 10m floating boardwalk installed
- Two cattle stops being installed
- The first restoration planting site has been identified and planned by Te Kakano, with future sites identified for ongoing restoration activity.

Any successes, challenges, or learnings

Autumn was wet, and we encountered some soft ground conditions that were not evident in prior years. We adapted by installing sections of floating boardwalk and have gravelled 200m of track to increase trail resilience and improve surface conditions in the wet.



Next steps

Gravelling the surface will be completed in June with final activities completed in July, including:

- Form the last 100m of track at the Camp Hill end (this was left to last to limit access during construction)
- Install signage
- Restoration site planting: 200 plants in round one, with 200–400 plants in round two later in September.
- UCTT website updates with local plants and animals found along the trail.

Impact

The trail is not open yet, but UCTT is very happy with how the project has proceeded and expects the planned benefits to be realised, including:

- An accessible track for those looking for a slower pace and tranquil experience.
- Enhanced trail network creating a loop opportunity.
- Expanded capacity of our track network and reduced conflict between “fast” and “slow” users.
- Several native plant restoration sites identified for multi-year activity.
- Access provided for increased predator control activity.

The project construction budget is \$132,000. The generous support of \$5,000 from the Upper Clutha A&P Society has contributed to giving our community access to the outdoors as part of everyday life.

See construction photos below.

Kind regards,

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David Howard
Upper Clutha Tracks Trust - Chair
Wanaka, NZ
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“Pump Shed” boardwalk and gravel



WKC contractors at “Fern Hill”



Gravel and filter cloth for improved trail resilience at “Fern Hill”



15m raised boardwalk at “Fantail Folly”



Kris, Katie and John looking at restoration planting sites



New trail



Example of local planting



Restoration site 1 – reclaim from the rabbits!



Trail on natural ground with minor camber corrections for accessibility



Improved river access