

21.22.8 Haehaenui (Arrow River) ONF

General Description of the Area

Haehaenui (Arrow River) PA ONF is the river corridor stretching broadly southwards from the confluence of the river and Pizollis Gully (on the south side of Big Hill), along the eastern side of Arrowtown and the toe of the Crown escarpment to meet the Kawarau River near Chard Farm, west of the Kawarau Bridge. The mapped PA ONF includes the upper edges of the landforms framing the river corridor. This takes in the river floodplains near Arrowtown.

Physical Attributes and Values

Geology and Geomorphology • Topography and Landforms • Climate and Soils • Hydrology • Vegetation • Ecology • Settlement • Development and Land Use • Archaeology and Heritage • Mana whenua

Important landforms and land types:

1. The steep river cliffs and localised gorges (generally located downstream of the SH6 bridge) and the more gently profiled riverbanks (generally to the north of the SH6 bridge).
2. Dynamic river braids and gravel shoals at bends in the course of the river near Arrowtown and Morven Ferry Road.
3. The interaction of fluvial processes with a landscape and sediments derived under a range of climatic and geomorphic processes over different time scales.
4. Small waterfalls along the course of the river including where the Sawpit Gully Stream flows into the Arrow River.
5. Contains the Arrow Junction piemontite-schist quarry which is recognised in the NZ Geopreservation Inventory and as being of national importance with respect to scientific, aesthetic or educational values and being vulnerable to significant damage by human related activities.

Important hydrological features:

6. The Haehaenui (Arrow River), in particular the following features and attributes:
 - a. Waterbody with a gravel and schist bed.
 - b. Clarity of the waters.

Important ecological features and vegetation types:

7. Particularly noteworthy indigenous vegetation features include:
 - a. Pockets of grey shrubland dominated by matagouri and mingimingi (*Coprosma propinqua*) and remnant pockets of mountain beech bordering the Arrow River. Sweet briar is a component of the grey shrubland.
8. Other distinctive vegetation types include:
 - a. The almost continuous patterning of willows, poplars, and a range of exotic deciduous trees along the riverbanks.
 - b. The proliferation of lupins and other exotic wildflower species along the riverbanks.

- c. Wilding conifers occur in places along the riverbanks.
 - d. Exotic grass floodplains, flats and banks in places.
9. The indigenous forest and shrubland vegetation, exotic grassland and rocky to bluffy terrain provide habitat for New Zealand falcon, bellbirds, grey warbler, fantail and silver eye and skink, and geckos.
 10. Habitat for eel, kōaro and salmon, rainbow trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout.
 11. Valued habitat for sports fishing spawning in Haehaenui (Arrow River).
 12. Animal pest species include feral goats, feral cats, ferrets, stoats, weasels, hares, rabbits, possums, mice, and rats.
 13. Plant pest species include sycamore, elderberry, wilding conifers, sweet briar, broom, gorse and lupin.

Important land-use patterns and features:

14. The network of public walking (some of which are universally accessible) and cycling trails along the riverbanks (including the Arrow River Bridges Trail which forms part of the Queenstown Trail network). This includes:
 - a. Several footbridges which are regarded as noteworthy features in their own right along the trail network as a consequence of their scale, design and/or the views afforded. Including the Southern Discoveries suspension bridge, the Swain Family Bridge, the Edgar Suspension Bridge and Norman Smith footbridge (where the Arrow River trail joins the Macetown Road).
 - b. The Knights Family Underpass and the Barfoot Tunnel (beneath SH6).
15. The almost continuous patterning of Informal Recreation zoned land along the western side (true right side) of the river extending from the northern end of Arrowtown to the SH6 bridge at Arrow Junction.
16. The swathe of Informal Recreation zoned land on the eastern side of the river (true left side) to the north of the SH6 bridge at Arrow Junction.
17. The Urban Growth Boundary associated with Arrowtown which adjoins the western boundary of the PA ONF (in the vicinity of Arrowtown)
18. Other neighbouring land uses which have an influence on the landscape character of the river corridor due to their scale, character, and/or proximity include: the Arrowtown Golf Course (south of Arrowtown); the scattering of relatively spacious rural living properties along the eastern side of Centennial Avenue and Morven Ferry Road and the western side of SH6 (Gibbston Highway); and the established cluster of rural living dwellings throughout Arrow Junction.
19. State Highway 6 which crosses the river at Arrow Junction.
20. The Macetown pipeline which runs from Macetown to Arrowtown alongside and crossing over parts of the Arrow River.
21. The flood berm in the vicinity of Bush Creek.

Important archaeological and heritage features and their locations:

22. The Macetown Road and stone retaining walls along the river upstream of Arrowtown, and the William Fox Memorial at Coopers Terrace to the north of Arrowtown (at the base of German Hill, District Plan reference 6).
23. The Macetown Heritage Area Overlay (MHAO) extends throughout the river corridor north of Arrowtown. This forms part of the much larger area of heritage significance due to its concentration of historic gold mining sites, focussed on the deserted mining town of Macetown, which span from the earliest exploitation

of gold in the Arrowtown area in 1862, through to the end of gold mining in the 1930's. Such a continuum of mining activity – first alluvial then hard-rock or quartz – has left a distinct and intelligible landscape with diverse features and stories linked by a series of mining tracks that still allow access to this remote and stunning countryside. The MHOA encompasses three key areas; the Rich Burn Valley, Macetown and the Arrow River valley, all three of which have distinctive characters and features that coalesce to form a broader mining heritage of regional significance. Among these, Macetown (outside the PA) is highly significant, representing the surviving remains of a remote 19th century mining village to which stories are still attached and some history has been traced to its founders, occupants and demise. Situated within its larger mining heritage context (which includes part of the PA), Macetown can be interpreted as part of a community of gold mining activity sites, which are a key part of the wider Otago gold mining story.

24. Various inter-related complexes of gold sluicings, tailings, water races, dams, and associated domestic sites along the riverbanks (for example, archaeological sites F41/653, F41/748, and F41/652).

Mana whenua features and their locations:

25. The entire area is ancestral land to Kāi Tahu whānui and, as such, all landscape is significant, given that whakapapa, whenua and wai are all intertwined in te ao Māori.
26. The ONF is mapped as wāhi tūpuna Haehaenui (Arrow River), part of the mahika kai networks in this area.

Associative Attributes and Values

Mana whenua creation and origin traditions • Mana whenua associations and experience • Mana whenua metaphysical aspects such as mauri and wairua • Historic values • Shared and recognised values • Recreation and scenic values

Mana whenua associations and experience:

27. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.
28. For generations, mana whenua traversed these catchments gathering kai and other resources.
29. The mana whenua values associated with this ONF include, but may not be limited to, ara tawhito, mahika kai and nohoaka.

Important historic attributes and values:

30. Gold mining in and alongside the river which led to the establishment of a settlement at Arrowtown. The sites associated with Macetown represent a particularly rich archaeological landscape.
31. The naming of the river, which was named the Arrow because its point of junction with Bush Creek resembled the outline of an arrowhead.
32. The scattering of various historic features along and adjacent the PA ONF, which collectively tell the story of the early European history of the area.

Important shared and recognised attributes and values:

33. The descriptions and photographs of the area in tourism publications.
34. The popularity of the Arrow River as an inspiration/subject for art, photography, and books.
35. The identity of the river as an important natural and historic landscape context for Arrowtown.

36. The popularity of the recreational 'features' listed below.
37. The importance of the natural heritage area to the local community as evidenced by the efforts of the Arrowtown Wilding Group, Predator Free Arrowtown, and the Arrowtown Choppers to manage weeds and pests, clear debris in the river and revegetate sections of the river corridor.
38. The Wall of Recognition along the route of the Arrow River Bridges Trail, which recognises the landowners and members of the local community that have been instrumental in the establishment and development of the Queenstown Trail.

Important recreation attributes and values:

39. Gold panning and fishing on the river; walking and cycling the trails alongside the river
40. The highly accessible nature of the river, particularly from Arrowtown creates a popular destination for picnicking and dog exercise as recreation activities, and river access for wading/ dogs/ water play.
41. A gateway to four-wheel drive recreation access trails.
42. Significant sports fishery and spawning habitat.

Perceptual (Sensory) Attributes and Values

Legibility and Expressiveness • Views to the area • Views from the area • Naturalness • Memorability • Transient values • Remoteness / Wildness • Aesthetic qualities and values

Legibility and expressiveness attributes and values:

43. Clearly legible alluvial / hydrological processes that have shaped the river corridor and which continue to add to its dynamic qualities. These are evident in the floodplains, the gorge landform and the changing patterns of channels and gravel banks along the river course.

Particularly important views to and from the area:

44. Highly attractive close, mid and long-range views from tracks, footbridges, reserve land, the SH6 bridge and adjacent dwellings along the predominantly vegetation-clad river corridor. Vegetation and landform patterns together with the winding corridor contain and frame views, contributing a highly variable, albeit generally relatively enclosed, character to the outlook. In places, the steep and large-scale escarpment edging the Crown Terrace and/or the mountain slopes of German Hill, Big Hill, and other enclosing mountains add a sense of drama and grandeur. Elsewhere, historic buildings bordering the corridor (for example, Dudley's Cottage and the Chinese Settlement in Arrowtown, and quaint cottages at Whitechapel) and the dynamic river waters and/or waterfalls add to the appeal of the outlook.
45. Appealing mid and long-range views from Tobin's Track and parts of the zig-zag section of the Crown Range Road to discrete sections of the river corridor and its predominantly vegetation-clad banks. In such views, the expansive outlook across the eastern portion of the Whakatipu Basin, seen framed by mountains and dotted with roche moutonnée adds to the appeal of the outlook.

Naturalness attributes and values:

46. The seemingly undeveloped character of the river corridor due to the dominance of the waterbody and its vegetated margins. While trails, footbridges, underpasses, and a road bridge are evident in the corridor, these activities indicate the high recreational values of the ONF (see previously). Where evident, structures are typically modest in scale and/or of an appealing or sympathetic character, which means that they are subservient to the natural landscape.

47. Between Arrowtown and the SH6 bridge there is an awareness of the urban or rural living land use adjacent the corridor. Even so, there remains a perception of significant naturalness within the river landscape, largely as a consequence of the densely vegetated margins and close proximity to the seemingly untamed and dramatic slopes of the Crown Escarpment. Buildings tend to be glimpsed behind plantings, making them recessive, with the historic character of some contributing to the charm of the area. Structures such as bridges, underpasses, signage, and seating associated with the Arrow River Trail also contribute positively to the appearance of the area. Overall there is the impression of a landscape that is highly picturesque, variable, and aesthetically appealing.
48. For the stretch of river corridor north of Arrowtown and south of the SH6 bridge, steeper slopes and gorges with exposed schist outcrops frame the river to form a contained and intimate river character. Whilst exotic vegetation is apparent, grey shrubland and manuka/beechnut remnants are more common and there is generally an increased perception of naturalness due to very limited exposure to development.

Memorability attributes and values:

49. The appealing and engaging views of the vegetated river corridor generally, and in places, seen flanked by historic buildings.
50. The various foot/cycle bridges, underpasses, historic features, and the dramatic gorges along the river corridor.

Transient attributes and values:

51. The fluctuations and changing patterns of the river waters and floodplain gravel banks.
52. The signature reds and golds of the autumn leaf colour and seasonal loss of leaves associated with the exotic vegetation (river edge poplars and willows in particular).
53. The seasonal display of wildflowers (including lupins) along the riverbanks.
54. Distinctive dappled light impression throughout the wooded river margins on sunny days.
55. Seasonal snowfall and, during which, frosted trees in the shaded river corridor by Arrowtown provide a noteworthy spectacle.

Remoteness and wildness attributes and values:

56. The river corridor upstream (north) of Arrowtown that is flanked by undeveloped mountains and hills.
57. Stretches of the river corridor tracks where intervening vegetation and / or landforms screen views of surrounding buildings, roads and pastoral areas.

Aesthetic qualities and values relate to:

58. The experience of all of the values identified above from a wide range of public viewpoints.
59. More specifically, this includes:
 - a. The highly attractive and intimate composition created by the watercourse framed by the densely vegetation-clad riverbanks.
 - b. The striking seasonal leaf colour display associated with the area.
 - c. At a finer scale, the following aspects contribute to the aesthetic appeal:
 - i. the river cliff and gorge formations to the south of the SH6 bridge;
 - ii. the visually discrete character of the majority of built development bordering the area;

- iii. the historic built development that is seen in places;
- iv. the sympathetic design of the trail tracks and structures; and
- v. the exotic trees and wildflowers along the river course, which contribute to the scenic appeal despite not being native.

Summary of Landscape Values

Physical • Perceptual (Sensory) • Associative

Rating scale: seven-point scale ranging from **Very Low** to **Very High**.

very low	low	low-mod	moderate	mod-high	high	very high
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These various combined physical, associative, and perceptual attributes and values described above for Haehaenui (Arrow River) PA ONF are summarised as follows:

- 60. **High** physical values relating to the clarity of the waters, the dynamic attributes of the river corridor, the gorges and floodplains shaped by the river, the habitat values for native and introduced fauna, the areas of indigenous vegetation and the mana whenua features in the area.
- 61. **High** associative values relating to:
 - a. The mana whenua associations of the area.
 - b. The historic features in the area.
 - c. The strong shared and recognised values associated with the area.
 - d. The recreational attributes of the ONF.
- 62. **High** perceptual values relating to:
 - a. The strong legibility and expressiveness values of the area derived from the visibility of physical attributes that enable a clear understanding of the landscape's formative processes.
 - b. The appealing aesthetic and distinctive memorability values of the area as a consequence of its distinctive and appealing composition of natural and cultural landscape elements. The area's transient values, intimate and enclosed character, and the accessibility of the area play an important role in this regard.
 - c. A strong perception of naturalness arising from the dominance of more natural landscape elements and processes throughout the area.
 - d. A sense of remoteness and wildness in places where the landform and/or vegetation serves to obscure views of built development.

Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the Haehaenui (Arrow River) PA ONF for a range of activities is set out below.

- i. **Commercial recreational activities – very limited** landscape capacity for activities that integrate with and complement/enhance existing recreation features; are located to optimise the screening and/or camouflaging benefit of natural landscape elements; designed to be of a sympathetic scale, appearance and character; integrate appreciable landscape restoration and enhancement; enhance public access; and protects the area's ONF values.
- ii. **Visitor accommodation and tourism related activities – no** landscape capacity for tourism-related activities. **No** landscape capacity for visitor accommodation activities.
- iii. **Urban expansions – no** landscape capacity.
- iv. **Intensive agriculture – no** landscape capacity.
- v. **Earthworks – limited** landscape capacity for earthworks associated with public access tracks, trails, underpasses, and bridge structures, that protect naturalness and expressiveness attributes and values, and are sympathetically designed to integrate with existing natural landform patterns.
- vi. **Farm buildings – no** landscape capacity.
- vii. **Mineral extraction – no** landscape capacity.
- viii. **Transport infrastructure – very limited** landscape capacity for trails that are: located to integrate with existing networks; designed to be of a sympathetic appearance and character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement; and protect the area's ONF values. **No** landscape capacity for other transport infrastructure.
- ix. **Utilities and regionally significant infrastructure – limited** landscape capacity for infrastructure that is buried or located such that they are screened from external view. In the case of utilities such as overhead lines or cell phone towers which cannot be screened, these should be co-located with existing infrastructure or designed and located so that they are not visually prominent.
- x. **Renewable energy generation – no** landscape capacity.
- xi. **Production forestry – no** landscape capacity.
- xii. **Rural living – no** landscape capacity.