

## 21.22.6 Slope Hill ONF

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### General Description of the Area

The Slope Hill PA ONF encompasses the elevated roche moutonnée landform of Slope Hill.

### 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 roche moutonnée glacial landform of Slope Hill, formed by the over-riding Wakatipu glacier, with a smooth 'up-glacier' slope to the southwest and a steeper rough 'plucked' (down-glacier) slope to the east adjacent to Lake Hayes. Rock outcrops throughout the elevated north-western flanks. Highest point: 625m.
2. The Slope Hill roche moutonnée is recognised in the NZ Geopreservation Inventory as one of the best examples of this type of landform in Otago and one of the most easily seen and accessible. It is identified as a site of national scientific, aesthetic and recreational values and is considered to be vulnerable to significant damage by human related activities.

### Important hydrological features:

3. Three steep (unnamed) stream gullies draining the southern faces of Slope Hill.
4. A gully draining the north-eastern side.
5. A small kettle lake on the elevated south-western flanks.
6. The irrigation race along the western flanks.

### Important ecological features and vegetation types:

7. Particularly noteworthy indigenous vegetation features include:
  - a. Remnant native vegetation comprising matagouri shrubland in the stream gullies and on some adjacent slopes on Slope Hill.
8. Other distinctive vegetation types include:
  - a. Grazed pasture with scattered shelterbelts and clusters of exotic shade trees throughout the elevated slopes.
  - b. Amenity and shelter plantings around the two dwellings and wetland on the north side.
  - c. Poplar plantings around the flanks.
9. Animal pest species include feral cats, hares, rabbits, ferrets, stoats, weasels, possums, rats and mice.

### Important land-use patterns and features:

10. Slope Hill is predominantly in pastoral use with very limited rural living use. Modification is limited to a network of farm tracks across the landform, a trig point and communication tower on the highpoint and two dwellings and associated farm building on the northern sides of Slope Hill. Built development is

generally characterised by very carefully located and designed buildings, accessways, and infrastructure, which is well integrated by a mix of established and more recent vegetation features and reads as being subservient to the 'natural' landscape patterns.

### **Important archaeological and heritage features and their locations:**

11. No historic heritage features, heritage protection orders, heritage overlays or archaeological sites have been identified/recorded to date within the ONF.

### **Mana whenua features and their locations:**

12. 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.

### **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:**

13. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.

### **Important historic attributes and values:**

14. Slope Hill has contextual value for its association with Threepwood Farm, one of the Wakatipu Basin's earliest farms.

### **Important shared and recognised attributes and values:**

15. The descriptions and photographs of the area in tourism publications.

### **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:**

16. The area's natural landforms, land type, and hydrological features (described above), which are highly legible and highly expressive of the landscape's formative glacial processes.
17. Indigenous gully plantings which reinforce the legibility and expressiveness values within the gullies on Slope Hill.

### **Particularly important views to and from the area:**

18. Highly attractive framed mid-range views eastbound on SH6, west of the Shotover Bridge to the south-western smooth 'up ice' flanks of Slope Hill. The composition comprises an attractive patterning of the Shotover River terraces and their layered tree plantings (a mix of evergreen and exotic species including Lombardy poplars) below the highly legible and more 'natural' pastoral elevated slopes of the roche

moutonnée and backdropped by (often) snow-capped mountain ranges of Cardrona and the Crown Range. The large-scale road cuttings that frame the highway add to the structure and distinctiveness of the vista. Overall, the outlook impresses as an engaging and memorable gateway to the Wakatipu Basin and seemingly more spacious 'rural' landscape beyond Queenstown/Frankton.

19. Appealing mid to long-range views westbound on SH6 on the elevated section of the highway east of the intersection with Arrowtown Lake Hayes Road to the south-eastern flanks of Slope Hill. The open pastoral character of the rough 'plucked' slopes of the landform in this view forms a bold contrast with the exotic vegetation and building-dominated low-lying terraces of Ladies Mile and Frankton to the left of view. From this orientation, the roche moutonnée blends seamlessly with the layered patterning of dramatic mountains and roche moutonnée that frame the western side of the Wakatipu Basin and Lake Wakatipu more generally. The depth of the outlook together with its 'classic' elements that include a structured layering of mountainous landforms and the gateway impression (enabling first glimpses of Queenstown) contribute to the memorability of the vista.
20. Highly attractive close to long-range views from the Lake Hayes Trail / Wai Whaka Ata, the necklace of reserves around the edge of Lake Hayes, Arrowtown Lake Hayes Road and the residential properties around Waiwhakaata (Lake Hayes) (outside the ONF), across the lake (ONF) to the dramatic and generally undeveloped roche moutonnée, the undeveloped ridgeline framing the western side of the lake and/or the more distant surrounding mountain backdrop.
21. Attractive mid to long-range views from the eastern side of the Wakatipu Basin (including Tuckers Beach, Domain Road, Hawthorn Triangle, Dalefield, parts of the Shotover River corridor, the Hawthorn Triangle, the eastern end of Slope Hill Road and parts of the Queenstown Trail) to the smooth pastoral elevated south-western flanks and the more rugged north-western flanks. From this orientation the open and generally undeveloped landform forms a marked contrast with the rural living development context in the foreground of view.
22. Attractive long-range views from the Remarkables Ski Field Access Road (and lookouts), the Queenstown Trail on Christine's Hill and from Arrowtown Lake Hayes Road at McIntyre's Hill to Slope Hill beside the highly attractive glacial lake of Waiwhakaata (Lake Hayes) and viewed within a broader ONL mountain context.
23. Attractive close, mid, and long-range views from Ladies Mile, Lake Hayes Estate and Shotover Country to the south side of Slope Hill. From this orientation the distinguishing roche moutonnée landform profile is clearly legible and there is an awareness of the transition from the smooth 'ice up' character to the rough 'plucked' character.
24. In all of the views, the dominance of 'natural' landscape elements, patterns, and processes evident within the ONF, along with the generally subservient nature of built development within the ONF and the contrast with the surrounding 'developed' landscape character, underpins the high quality of the outlook.

#### **Naturalness attributes and values:**

25. The seemingly 'undeveloped' character of Slope Hill which conveys a relatively high perception of naturalness. While modifications related to its pastoral use are visible, the very low number of buildings, the relatively modest scale of tracks and limited visibility of infrastructure kerbs their influence on the character of the landform as a natural landscape element.

#### **Memorability attributes and values:**

26. The appealing and engaging views of the largely undeveloped and legible roche moutonnée landform of Slope Hill. The close proximity of Waiwhakaata (Lake Hayes) ONF in the outlook, collectively seen within a relatively developed immediate context serves to enhance the memorability of the outlook.

#### **Transient attributes and values:**

27. Autumn leaf colour and seasonal loss of leaves associated with the exotic vegetation.

28. Seasonal snowfall and the ever-changing patterning of light and weather across the roche moutonnée slopes.

### Aesthetic qualities and values:

29. The experience of the values identified above from a wide range of public viewpoints.
30. More specifically, this includes:
- a. The highly attractive large-scale composition created by the generally undeveloped and distinctive roche moutonnée landform, juxtaposed beside a rural living and urban context.
  - b. At a finer scale, the following aspects contribute to the aesthetic appeal:
    - i. the clearly legible roche moutonnée landform profile and character;
    - ii. the open and pastoral character of Slope Hill;
    - iii. the very limited level of built modification evident through the ONF; and
    - iv. the poplars around the flanks of Slope Hill, which contribute to the scenic appeal despite not being native.

## Summary of Landscape Values

Physical • Associative • Perceptual (Sensory)

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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The combined physical, associative, and perceptual attributes and values described above for PA ONF Slope Hill and Lake Hayes Remarkables can be summarised:

31. **Very High physical values** due to the high-value landforms, vegetation features, habitats, species, hydrological features and mana whenua features in the area.
32. **High associative values** relating to:
- a. The mana whenua associations of the area.
  - b. The historic associations of the area.
  - c. The strong shared and recognised values associated with the area.
  - d. The significant recreational attributes of Waiwhakaata (Lake Hayes).
33. **Very High perceptual values** relating to:
- a. The high legibility and expressiveness values of the area deriving from the visibility and abundance of physical attributes that enable a clear understanding of the landscape's formative processes.
  - b. The very high aesthetic and memorability values of the area as a consequence of its distinctive and appealing composition of natural landscape elements. The visibility of the area from Lake Hayes Estate, Shotover Country, the Ladies Mile corridor, the eastern side of the Wakatipu Basin,

the scenic route of SH6, Arrowtown Lake Hayes Road, the Remarkables Ski Filed Access Road and the Queenstown Trail, along with the area's transient values, play an important role.

- c. The identity of the roche moutonnée as a natural landscape backdrop to Ladies Mile and the western and central portion of the Wakatipu Basin and as a gateway feature to Queenstown/ the Wakatipu Basin.
- d. A high perception of naturalness arising from the dominance of natural landscape elements and patterns at Slope Hill.

## Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the PA ONF Slope Hill 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 protect the area's ONF values.
- ii. **Visitor accommodation and tourism related activities – no** landscape capacity.
- iii. **Urban expansions – no** landscape capacity.
- iv. **Intensive agriculture – no** landscape capacity.
- v. **Earthworks – very limited** landscape capacity for earthworks associated with farm or public access tracks, that protect naturalness and expressiveness attributes and values, and are sympathetically designed integrate with existing natural landform patterns.
- vi. **Farm buildings –** in those areas of the ONL with pastoral land uses, **very limited** landscape capacity for modestly scaled buildings that reinforce existing rural character.
- 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 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.