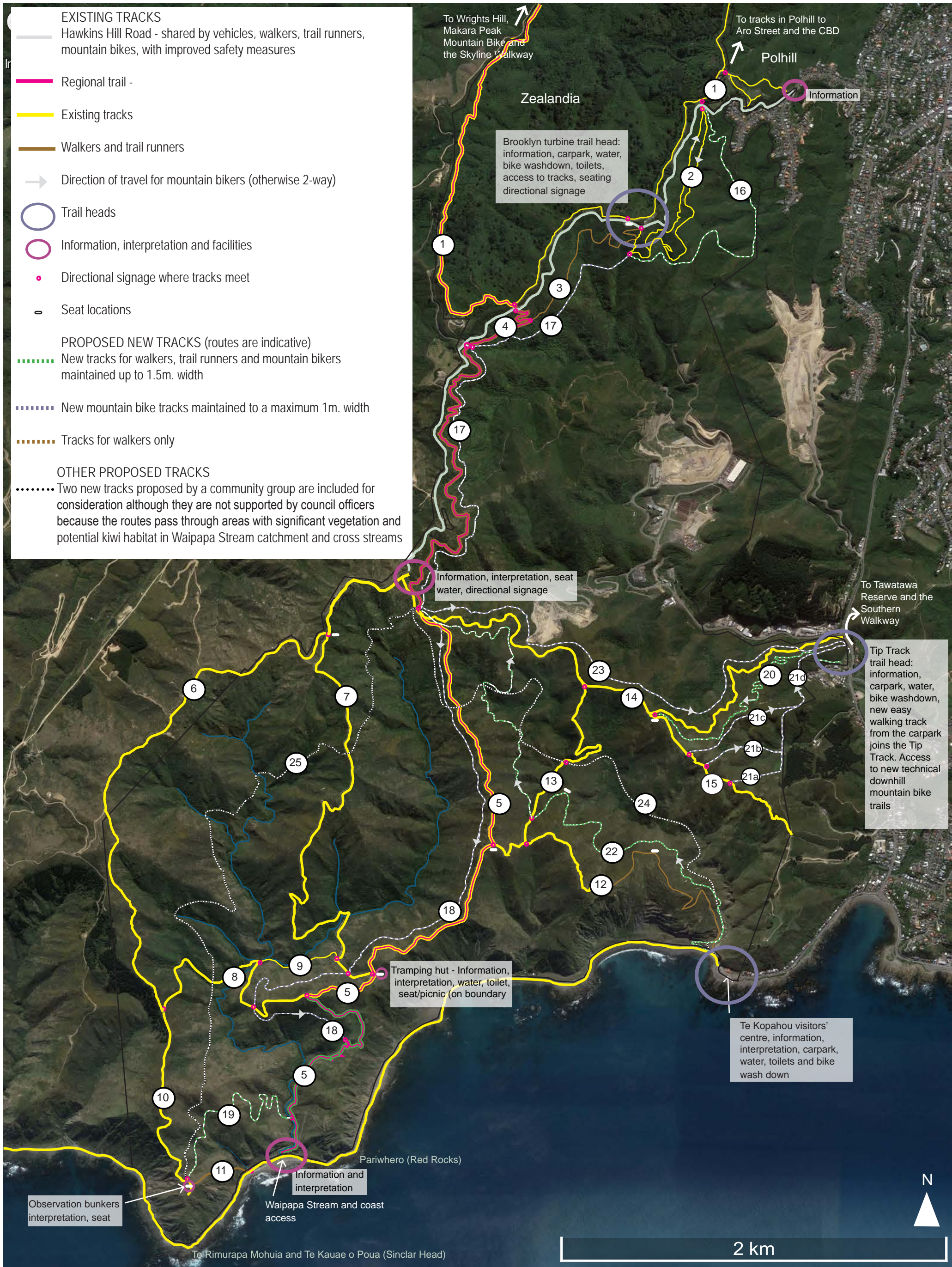


Map 3 - Draft Track Network Plan



Key elements

More tracks, facilities and amenities for a broad range of users

- Thirteen existing tracks are improved and eight new tracks developed
- Track grades that range from grade 3 to grade 5
- Three trail heads with car parking, information, water stations and bike wash down areas - at the Brooklyn turbine (with new toilets), on Happy Valley Road south of the Tip Track (with toilets for track users at nearby Happy Valley Park) and at Te Kopahou visitors' centre (existing toilets)
- Information, interpretation and water stations at strategic locations within the reserve
- Directional signage where tracks meet with names of tracks, distances, walking times and elevations
- A new tramping hut for overnight stays.

Improvements to the busiest tracks close to trail heads

- New loop options at the northern, turbine end of the reserve that provide more intermediate grade tracks
- Some tracks with separate use
- A new track for walkers, trail runners and uphill for mountain bikers provides an easier route that avoids the lower, steep and rough section of the Tip Track.

More trail and loop options for a broad range of users

- A main regional trail from Pariwhero on the south coast through to the Brooklyn turbine and connections to Hawkins Hill, Makara Mountain Bike Park and the Skyline walkway
- A new 42 kilometre Grade 3 loop trail that is a mix of existing and new tracks
- A new loop track from the coast at Pariwhero to the WW2 observation bunkers
- Loop options from the Te Kopahou visitors' centre carpark and new access into the reserve up from the coast.

Routes for experienced mountain bikers

- A new long Grade 5 mountain bike track that runs adjacent to the tip track
- A new long ride to the coast for Grade 4 mountain biking with one of the highest vertical drops in Wellington city and catering for riders who are willing and able to go further afield
- A new cluster of short Grade 5 downhill mountain bike tracks accessed from the new trail head on Happy Valley Road.

Track Descriptions

NB Solid lines in the draft track plan are existing tracks, dashed lines are proposed new tracks. Track grades indicate track difficulty (Grade 1 is the easiest). 4-wheel drive access on some tracks is for park rangers and predator control.

Existing tracks

Track No.	Description	Users	Reasons for track	Grade
1	Existing wide, shared track that follows the Zealandia fenceline and is safer for people than Hawkins Hill Road which is narrow, winding and shared with vehicles. Signage at the Brooklyn turbine carpark needs developing and access to the fenceline track improved to direct people to the track and away from the road. However, the track is a 'roller coaster' in parts with steep downhill and uphill sections which means some walkers will still choose to use the even surface and easier gradient of Hawkins Hill Road	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers (also used by Zealandia vehicles for fence maintenance)	Forms part of the regional trail from the south coast to Spicer Forest along the Outer Green Belt with connections to Wrights Hill, Makara Mountain Bike Park and the Skyline walkway. Also connects to Polhill, where tracks have been developed by Brooklyn Trail Builders, to Aro Street and to the CBD. The fenceline track is a safe alternative to using Hawkins Hill Rd, and has been developed in order to maintain the fence around Zealandia	3
2	Uphill (Windmill) and downhill (Carparks) tracks are separated. Directional signage from the fenceline track and the Brooklyn turbine carpark needs revising with information for people on foot to make it clear the track is shared and the direction of travel for mountain bikers	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers	Provides a loop trail for walkers and mountain bikers connecting to the Brooklyn turbine and tracks in Polhill. A pleasant trail experience mostly under the tree canopy with shade, views and birdlife. The tracks have been developed by Brooklyn Trail Builders	3
3	'Carparks Extension' is proposed to become a track for walkers and trail runners with a new parallel track for mountain bikers (see 17)	walkers, trail runners	The track is proposed to change from a shared trail to one for people on foot with a separate track for mountain bikers. This helps direct walkers/trail runners away from Hawkins Hill Road and connects to the Regional Trail. It offers people an alternative to the Zealandia fenceline within the tree canopy with views and bird life	3
4	'Barking Emu' is proposed to become a track for walkers and trail runners with a new parallel track developed for mountain bikers (see 17)	walkers, trail runners	Currently a shared trail, this track is proposed for walkers and runners and directs walkers/trail runners away from Hawkins Hill Road, is part of the Regional Trail and has a new connection to the Zealandia fenceline. Some walkers use Hawkins Hill Road rather than sharing Barking Emu with mountain bikers because the track is narrow and the surface uneven and difficult to walk on. Reserving the track for people on foot would make it more attractive and safer to use, especially for young families, people who are less sure on their feet and for elderly people.	3

Track No.	Description	Users	Reasons for track	Grade
5	Existing track known as Red Rocks Track and the regional trail to the coast. It follows the ridgeline from the end of Hawkins Hill Road to the mouth of Waipapa Stream and the coast road. The track needs upgrading and a bridge across Waipapa Stream has been washed out. Investigate moving the track to the eastern side of the stream to avoid stream crossings	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers, with 4-wheel drive part of the way	Part of the regional trail and the main route to the coast with extensive views. The track has 4-wheel drive access to the proposed tramping hut at the top of the coastal escarpment	3
6	Existing track along the main Te Kopahou Ridgeline with an easement through private land. Known as Te Kopahou Track	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers, 4-wheel drive	Provides access to the Historic Reserve, Rimurapa Landscape Feature Precinct, WW2 observation bunkers and Waipapa tracks	3
7	A steep track known as the Radome Track that follows the ridgeline with views of the two deep gullies that make up the Waipapa Stream catchment. Gorse along the track needs clearing	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers, 4-wheel drive	Part of loop options of various distances and an alternative to the regional trail to the east	4
8	Existing track descends from Te Kopahou Track to the valley floor, crosses Waipapa Stream and ascends steeply to meet the main regional trail to the coast	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers, 4-wheel drive	Connects Te Kopahou Track with the main regional trail. Enables track users to experience the sheltered valley floor and Waipapa Stream	3
9	Old farm track overgrown and needing gorse clearance to make it usable	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers	Connects the Radome track to the valley floor, Waipapa Stream and the track to the Te Kopahou ridgeline	3
10	Steep challenging track from Te Kopahou Track to WW2 observation bunkers	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers, 4-wheel drive	Connects Te Kopahou track to WW2 observation bunkers, the Historic Reserve and Te Rimurapa Landscape Feature Precinct	5
11	Track for to WW2 observation bunkers and a steep climb from the coast road. Steps will improve access	walkers, trail runners	A short but steep climb from the coast road to access the WW2 observation bunkers	5
12	Track along the top of the coastal escarpment with coastal views. The exit to the visitors' centre requires steps to negotiate the existing 'Elevator Shaft', on the eastern side of the former quarry. Gorse along the track needs clearing	walkers and trail runners and 4-wheel drive to the stock yards	Provides a loop trail which starts and ends at Te Kopahou visitor's centre. An alternative for people going to Pariwhero and the seals along the coast road to return along the top of the coastal escarpment	3
13	Track that crosses Spooky Gully and Hape Stream	walkers, trail runners, 4-wheel drive	Provides a loop trail and connections to tracks to the coast and the Tip Track track	3
14	Tip Track between Hawkins Hill Road and the new trail head on Happy Valley Road. A steep gradient and popular for those wanting to get fit, although not liked by some walkers and mountain bikers who are looking for a more gentle gradient	walkers, trail runners, 4-wheel drive	Main access to Te Kopahou Reserve from Happy Valley Road and connects to Tawatawa Reserve, the Southern Walkway and the wider trail network	4
15	Ridgeline track that ends at private land. Currently, access is allowed from Bata Place to the ridgeline, although continue access is not guaranteed	walkers, trail runners, 4-wheel drive	Provides access to proposed technical downhill mountain bike tracks	3

Proposed new tracks

These are shown on the track plan as dashed lines. All new track routes are indicative and will require site surveys, engineering advice in some instances and ecological assessments before construction begins. Development of proposed tracks 17, 19, 20 and 22 are the propriety

Track No.	Description	Users	Reasons for track	Grade
16	Indicative location of new track in Carey's Gully that descends to the valley floor and up to the Brooklyn turbine through the scenic reserve. The track alignment has already been identified	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers	Extends and connects to the Polhill track network and provides a new loop track to the Brooklyn turbine carpark. Enables experience of Carey's Gully forest	3 & 4
17	Indicative location of new two-way dedicated mountain bike track that runs parallel to existing Carparts Extension and Barking Emu. The track is proposed to be wider than existing Carparts Extension and Barking to encourage bikers who are less experienced or confident	mountain bikers	A track that is exclusive to mountain bikers to provide a safer and more enjoyable ride for beginners and less confident mountain bikers as well as for experienced riders. Connects to a number of tracks to the north and south	3
18	Indicative location of a new long downhill mountain bike track to the coast. Located below the ridgeline, it begins near the top of Red Rocks trail and avoids an area of the threatened Spear grass. Its alignment will avoid most other areas with significant vegetation as well as the Waipapa Stream catchment in the valley below the track. In particular, it will avoid the area where 5 threatened species are found near where tracks 8 and 9 converge. Because it is a downhill mountain bike track its width is narrow with fewer earthwork requirements, less erosion and disturbance of vegetation, the tree canopy and habitats	mountain bikers	Provides a 480m drop to the coast for mountain bikers, the highest vertical drop in Wellington City with views of the deep gullies of Waipapa Stream and potential kiwi habitat. It is part of a proposed new 42 kilometre loop trail to the coast and back up Te Hape valley, connecting to the new mountain bike trail to and from Brooklyn Turbine and to Polhill, Aro Street and the CBD. It also connects to the top of the Tip Track and the new trail head on Happy Valley Road, and is an alternative for more experienced bikers to the main regional trail along the ridgeline to the coast	4
19	Indicative location of new track to the Historic Reserve, Rimurapa Landscape Feature, and WW2 observation bunkers	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers	Provides a track with an easier gradient than the current access to WW2 observation bunkers, the Historic Reserve and Rimurapa Landscape Feature Precinct and loop options. The track route will need careful alignment to ensure an easy gradient and will cross Waipapa Stream to join the regional trail down to the coast. A bridge may be necessary to improve access and attract more visitors to the sites of the historic bunkers and early Māori settlement	3
20	Indicative location of a track from the new trail head with an easier grade than the Tip Track	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikes uphill	This proposed track has an easier gradient and is an alternative to the Tip Track, which a number of people spoken to through the public engagement period said they did not use because of its steep gradient. It connects to proposed technical downhill tracks for mountain bikers and a number of loop options	3
21	Indicative locations of new proposed technical downhill mountain bike tracks (21 a,b,c,d) with access from the new trail head on Happy Valley Road	mountain bikers	Provides technical downhill mountain bike tracks accessed from the new trail head on Happy Valley Road. Fulfills a need for more advanced mountain bike tracks	5
22	Indicative location of a new proposed track from Te Kopahou visitors' centre through Te Hape valley	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers	This access from the coast completes a 20 kilometre Grade 3 trail to Aro Street via Polhill and is part of a 42 kilometre loop trail from Aro Street. It also allows a number of other shorter loop options. This indicative route avoids areas with significant vegetation and Hape Stream crossings, and will add an experience that is missing from this part of Te Kopahou	3
23	Indicative location of a new proposed mountain bike track once the C & D landfill has stopped operating	mountain bikers	An alternative route to the Tip Track for mountain bikers with access to the new trail head on Happy Valley Road. Provides for a number of loop options	5

Other tracks

Tracks shown on the track plan as black dotted lines have been proposed by a community group, but are not supported by some people in the community or by council officers.

Track No.	Description	Users	Reasons why this track is not supported	Grade
24	<p>Indicative location of a new track from the coast and Te Kopahou visitors' centre through Te Hape valley and up to the Brooklyn turbine. The track follows Hape Stream and crosses the stream before climbing to cross the regional trail and continue to where a number of tracks meet.</p> <p>It completes a grade 3 track from the Brooklyn Turbine to the south coast and the Te Kopahou visitors' centre, and provides a number of loop options. It is also part of a proposed 42 kilometre loop trail from the coast.</p>	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers	<p>The proposed route crosses Hape Stream which has threatened native fish species, and passes through vegetation with ecological significance and habitat for threatened plants and other native species. An example is the Cook Strait kowhai which is found in the valley near Hape Stream.</p> <p>Accessibility through track building can facilitate awareness of the values of native ecosystems and lead to people joining volunteer groups and becoming advocates for the environment. These benefits must be balanced against threats to ecosystems that increased access may bring.</p> <p>Recognising the benefits that come from access, this draft track plan proposes an alternative route for a track though Te Hape valley that avoids Hape Stream and vegetation of significance (see proposed track 22). The alignment of this track is indicative, and will be established on the ground.</p>	3
25	Indicative location of a proposed track from the south coast through the Waipapa Stream catchment. The track crosses gullies and the northern branch of Waipapa Stream.	walkers, trail runners, mountain bikers	<p>The track completes a 25 kilometre Grade 3 loop up through Te Hape valley, through the Waipapa Stream catchment to the WW2 observations bunkers and back along the coast to Te Kopahou visitors' centre.</p> <p>The Waipapa Stream catchment provides habitat for kiwi and is likely to be where kiwi become established as part of the Capital Kiwi project. Predator trapping is underway on existing tracks.</p> <p>Key reasons for not supporting a track in this area are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The track passes through the Waipapa Stream catchment and vegetation that is ecologically significant with habitat for threatened plants, birds, bats, lizards, fish and other native species• No new tracks are required for trapping as part of Capital Kiwi or for other activities such as weed control• No planting is proposed in this area - vegetation is passing through the natural forest succession process• If kiwi are to establish it is essential that dogs are kept out of this area and a continuous dense canopy, such as that formed by grey scrub, makes access for dogs difficult• The area is very steep and rugged. Earthworks for tracks would be difficult, disturb fragile ground and ecosystems, and be visually intrusive in this more remote part of the reserve• The proposed track plan provides a range of routes, options and experiences for a range of user groups and skill levels without this track.	3