

21.22.16 Eastern Whakatipu Basin ONL

General Description of the Area

The Eastern Whakatipu Basin PA ONL encompasses the steep predominantly west-facing slopes of the mountain range framing the east side of the Whakatipu Basin stretching from the Arrow River to the Kawarau River. The PA ONL takes in Pt 1108, Pt 1080, Pt 1331, Crown Peak, and Pt 1426. It also includes Mt Beetham, the New Chum Gully and the Crown Terrace Escarpment, and the lower reaches of feeder gullies on the Crown Terrace.

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 steeply sloping, foliated (in the geological sense, not botanical), schistose mountain landforms of Pt 1108, Pt 1080, Pt 1331, Crown Peak (1,731m), and Pt 1426 (including much of the western sides of Mt Scott), which form part of the wall of mountains framing the eastern side of the Whakatipu Basin.
2. The numerous secondary and varying steep to more rounded ridgeline 'shoulders' extending westwards from the continuous (eastern) mountain 'frame' to the Crown Terrace Escarpment.
3. The cone-shaped roche moutonnée glacial landform of Mt Beetham with the smooth 'up-glacier' face along its west side and a steeper rough 'plucked' 'down-glacier' slope to the east. Rock outcrops throughout the elevated north-eastern flanks. Highest point: 929m.
4. Partly collapsed solifluction slopes above the Crown Terrace. (NB Solifluction is a collective name for gradual processes by which regolith (unconsolidated material overlying bedrock) moves down a slope ("mass wasting") generally caused by freeze-thaw activity.)
5. The steep large-scale and continuous remnant river terrace escarpment landform along the western edge of the Crown Terrace (the majority of which is outside the PA ONL).
6. Glacial till deposits and alluvial fans at the toe of the steep mountain slopes framing the eastern side of the Whakatipu Basin and along the finger of the Crown Terrace that extends between the western side of Mt Beetham and the Crown Escarpment.
7. The distinctive Judge and Jury rock formations near the Kawarau Bridge.
8. Located on the western side of Mt Scott, the Crown Range Superimposed Folds formed in greenschist are identified in the NZ Geopreservation Inventory as a site of national importance and is rated as being robust and not considered to be vulnerable to most human-related activities.

Important hydrological features:

9. The numerous unnamed streams in the northern portion of the PA draining to the Arrow River, including along New Chums Creek along the New Chums Gully.
10. The numerous streams draining from the eastern mountain range across the Crown Terrace and down to the Arrow River via the Crown Escarpment. Including Royal Burn, Swift Burn, along with several unnamed watercourses. Generally the watercourses are steeply incised where they cross the Crown Escarpment.

Important ecological features and vegetation types:

11. Particularly noteworthy indigenous vegetation features include:
 - a. Below approximately 800m on the slopes facing the Arrow River and the lower section of New Chums Gully, a dense mosaic of shrubland with scattered areas of trees. The shrubland is dominated by sweet briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*) and matagouri (*Discaria toumatou*). Other shrub species include mingimingi (*Coprosma propinqua*), *Coprosma rugosa*, tutu (*Coriaria arborea*), NZ broom (*Carmichaelia arborea var arborea*), bush lawyer (*Rubus cissoides*) and koromiko (*Veronica salicifolia*).
 - b. Kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*) behind the Glencoe homestead in New Chums Gully.
 - c. Pockets of a diverse range of native shrubs in more inaccessible gullies (such as the narrow gorge at the head of New Chums Creek), including turpentine scrub (*Dracophyllum uniflorum*), *Astelia nervosa*, shrub daisy (*Olearia nummulariifolia*), native broom (*Carmichaelia petriei*), bush snowberry (*Gaultheria antipoda*), and mountain ribbonwood (*Hoheria lyallii*).
 - d. Pockets of matagouri and mingimingi across the Crown Terrace Escarpment and throughout gullies.
 - e. Expansive areas of short and snow tussock grassland throughout the eastern mountain frame between approximately 800m and 1,700m. Tall tussock (*Chionochloa rigida*) dominates on cool aspects with short tussock (*Festuca novae-zelandiae*) increasing in dominance with decreasing altitude. Pockets of grey shrubland dominated by matagouri and mingimingi throughout lower slopes.
 - f. Strong cover of silver tussock (*Poa cita*) throughout the eastern flank of Mt Beetham.
 - g. Narrow leaved snow tussock (*Chionochloa rigida amara*) dominates above 1,000m.
 - h. Cushionfields on ridge crest in vicinity of Crown Peak.
12. Other distinctive vegetation types include:
 - a. Exotic grasses and herbs mixed with tussock throughout the slopes below approximately 1,000m.
 - b. Sycamore and black poplars throughout the Crown Terrace Escarpment in the vicinity of Tobins track and the Arrow River, and in parts of New Chums Gully below the shearing shed.
 - c. Sweet briar, broom, scrub, hawthorn, wilding conifers, and pockets of plantation forestry (larch and Douglas fir) across the Crown Terrace Escarpment.
13. Diverse vegetation types and rocky terrain associated with the Crown Range and lower landforms including escarpments provide suitable habitat for New Zealand falcon, New Zealand pipit, grey warbler, fantail and silvereye and skink and gecko species.
14. Animal pest species include feral goats, hares, possums, mice, rats, stoats, ferrets, feral cats, and rabbits.
15. Plant pest species include wilding pines, sweet briar, hawthorn, buddleia, sycamore, broom and gorse.

Land-use patterns and features:

16. Human modification which is concentrated: around the Glencoe Station homestead in New Chum Gully (north of Mt Beetham); roughly in the centre of the Crown Terrace Escarpment, where the Crown range (or 'Zig Zag') Road winds its way up the escarpment; and the southern end of the PA where the Crown Range Road winds its way around the southwestern flanks of Mt Scott.

17. Built development patterning which includes a cluster of rural dwellings and farm buildings associated with Glencoe Station in New Chum Gully (to the north of Mt Beetham); a limited scattering of rural living dwellings to the northwest of Mt Beetham; two rural living dwellings to the north of the Zig Zag Road (one located at the base of the escarpment and one near the top); and a small cluster of rural living dwellings towards the southern end of the PA, northwest of the Kawarau Bridge (and accessed from Gibbston Highway). Generally development is characterised by carefully located and designed buildings that are well integrated by plantings and remain subservient to the 'natural' landscape patterns. Elsewhere, the modest scale of buildings, together with their distinctly working rural character, ensures that they sit comfortably into the setting.
18. Several rural and rural living dwellings and farm buildings are located along the edges of the PA within the Crown Terrace and along the toe of the escarpment, south of the point where the course of Arrow River diverges from the base of the escarpment. With the exception of New Chum Gully environs, generally built development has been carefully located outside of the PA.
19. Tobins Track, Tobins Drop, Mt Beetham Track, the New Chum Gully Track, Peters Way, the New Chum Ridge Track, Miners Route, Brackens Saddle Track, Crown Peak Track (small section). Associated with these tracks are signage, stiles, and seating, typically of a modest scale and low-key character.
20. Infrastructure is evident within the northern and southern portions of the PA and includes: a section of the Cromwell Frankton A transmission corridor in the vicinity of the Kawarau bridge (southern end of PA); a short section of power lines on poles servicing the rural living cluster near the Kawarau Bridge; the power/telephone lines (on poles) servicing Glencoe station and farm fencing / farm tracks.
21. Other neighbouring land uses which have an influence on the landscape character of the area due to their scale, character and/or proximity include: the rural living development along the toe of the Crown Terrace Escarpment and the base of the range of mountains framing the eastern side of the Whakatipu Basin (on the Crown Terrace); the close proximity of SH 6 (Gibbston Highway) which is on the western side of the southern end of the Crown Terrace Escarpment and the Crown Range Road, where it runs across the Crown Terrace.

Important archaeological and heritage features and their locations:

22. The Judge and Jury Rocks near the Kawarau Bridge (District Plan reference 9).
23. Historic farmstead at Glencoe Station and associated outbuildings.
24. Various inter-related complexes of gold sluicings, tailings, water races, dams, and associated domestic sites in the area (for example, archaeological sites F41/743, F41/632, and F41/633).
25. Notable transport routes and associated infrastructure, including Tobin's Track.

Mana whenua features and their locations:

26. 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.
27. Parts of the ONL overlap the mapped Haehaenui (Arrow River) wāhi tūpuna. The southern extent of the ONL overlaps the mapped Kawarau River wāhi tūpuna. These wāhi tūpuna were part of a network of mahika kai areas, with the Kawarau River also being a traditional travel route between the Mata-au (Clutha River) and Whakatipu Waimāori (Lake Wakatipu).

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:

28. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.
29. Kāi Tahu tradition tells of an incident where a 280 strong war party was repelled from the Tititea settlement on the south side of the Kawarau river and chased to the top of the Crown Range, which is now named Tititea in memory of this incident.
30. The mana whenua values associated with the Eastern Wakatipu Basin ONL include, but may not be limited to, ara tawhito, mahika kai and nohoaka.

Important historic attributes and values:

31. Gold mining in the area and the associated physical remnants including sluiced faces and water races.
32. Use of the Crown Terrace for pastoralism.
33. Glencoe homestead and remaining historic buildings from William Paterson's establishment of the Glencoe Run.
34. Historic transport tracks and infrastructure, including Tobin's Track (constructed 1874) and features associated with the construction of SH6 (eg. F41/744).

Important shared and recognised attributes and values:

35. The descriptions and photographs of the area in tourism publications.
36. The popularity of the postcard views from the Zig Zag lookout (on the Crown Range Road, where it scales the Crown Terrace Escarpment) out over the Whakatipu Basin and surrounding mountains, as an inspiration/subject for photography.
37. The high popularity of Tobin's Track in part due to its very close proximity to Arrowtown.
38. The identity of the line of mountains along the eastern side of the PA in forming the dramatic 'eastern frame' of the Whakatipu Basin.
39. The identity of the Crown Terrace Escarpment (and distinctive 'zig zag' section of the Crown Range Road) as marking the transition between the mixed rural and rural residential landscape of the low-lying part of the Whakatipu Basin and the more overtly 'working' rural landscape of the Crown Terrace.
40. The identity of the sequence of mountains and the escarpment at the northern end of the PA as a dramatic (western) backdrop to Arrowtown.

Important recreation attributes and values:

41. Enjoying the view from the Zig Zag lookout on the Crown Range Road.
42. Walking, running, dog walking (where allowed) and mountain biking on Tobin's Track, Tobin's Drop, Mt Beetham Track, the New Chum Gully Track, Peters Way, the New Chum Ridge Track, Miners Route, Brackens Saddle Track, Crown Peak Track.

43. SH 6 Gibbston Highway and the Crown Range Road as key scenic routes either within the PA or in close proximity.

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:

44. 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.
45. Indigenous gully plantings and remnant vegetation which reinforce the legibility and expressiveness values throughout the area.

Particularly important views to and from the area:

46. The postcard views from the Zig Zag lookout (on the Crown Range Road), out over the Whakatipu Basin, Te Whaka-ata (Lake Hayes), Whakātipu-Wai-Māori (Lake Whakatipu), Morven Ferry roche moutonnée, the Remarkables, Coronet Peak and the broader mountain context. The 'bird's eye' like quality of the vista across a complex mixed rural and rural living/resort landscape adds to its appeal. The accessibility of the vantage point also plays an important role.
47. The spectacular panoramic views from the Crown Peak Track, and the New Chum Ridge Track out over the Whakatipu Basin to the west and/or the rugged and dramatic expanse of the Crown Range to the east and north.
48. The highly attractive and engaging short to long-range views from Tobins Track and Tobins Drop, Mt Beetham Track, Peters Way, the New Chum Ridge Track, Miners Route, Brackens Saddle Track, out over the PA, the Whakatipu Basin, the Remarkables, and the broader glacial valley and mountain context.
49. The dramatic mid and long-range views from Arrowtown, the Arrow River ONF, the scenic routes of the Crown Range Road and SH6 Gibbston Highway, much of the Whakatipu Basin (including sections of the Queenstown Trail network) to the large-scale and coherent river terrace escarpment landform and/or the continuous sequence of mountains that frame the eastern side of the Crown Terrace. From more distant vantage points, the contrast established between these more natural landscape elements seen in combination with the gently sloping working rural 'plinth' of the Crown Terrace adds to the memorability and appeal of such views. At closer range, the large-scale, rugged and unkempt appearance of much of the Crown Terrace Escarpment reinforces its role as a 'break' between the more developed low-lying basin to the west and the working rural landscape of the Crown Terrace.
50. The appealing long-range views from more distant elevated vantage points such as the Remarkables Ski Field Access Road and Coronet Peak Road in which the scale and shape of the glacial valley and river terrace landscape that underpins the PA is legible in its entirety and confers a sense of grandeur to the outlook.
51. The highly engaging mid-range views from Glencoe Road, in which the roche moutonnée profile of Mt Beetham is clearly legible.
52. Engaging and seemingly 'close-range' views from planes approaching or exiting Queenstown airport via the Gibbston Valley. Such views offer an appreciation of the broader glacial landscape context within which the PA ONL is set.

53. In all of the views, the dominance of 'natural' landscape elements, patterns, and processes evident within the PA ONL, along with the generally subservient nature of built development within the PA ONL, underpins the high quality of the outlook.

Naturalness attributes and values:

54. The 'seemingly' undeveloped character of Eastern Whakatipu Basin PA ONL set within the mixed working rural and rural living (Whakatipu Basin) context and/or the working rural setting of the Crown Terrace, which conveys a relatively high perception of naturalness. While modifications related to rural living, farming, forestry, recreational, and infrastructure uses are visible, the sheer scale and continuity of the high mountain-scape along the eastern side of the Crown Terrace and the river terrace escarpment landform along its western edge ensures that, for the most part, these elements remain subservient to natural landscape elements, patterns, and processes.
55. The irregular patterning and proliferation of grey shrubland, exposed rock faces and scrub in places adds to the perception of naturalness.
56. While the Crown Range Road forms a bold manmade element within the PA ONL, the connection this development establishes and enables between the mountain setting, the inhabited Whakatipu Valley and further afield, Wanaka, adds a degree of interest to the view, meaning that it is not an overwhelmingly negative visual element. The scale of the seemingly 'undeveloped' escarpment and mountain setting within which this development is viewed, together with its identity as a popular scenic route, also play a role. Put another way, these landscape modifications also make an important contribution to Queenstown's recreational values (see above), suggesting a degree of landscape 'fit'.
57. The localised forestry plantings across parts of the Crown Terrace Escarpment contribute a reduced perception of naturalness in places. However, the underlying natural (and largely unmodified) rugged river terrace landform character of the area remains legible and dominant, thus ensuring these parts of the PA display at least a moderate-high level of naturalness. The visual appearance of these parts of the PA during and after harvesting cycles forms a prominent negative visual element within the broader landscape setting and serves to (temporarily) further reduce the perception of naturalness in this part of the PA.

Memorability attributes and values:

58. The appealing and engaging views of the continuous 'wall' of mountains framing the eastern side of the Whakatipu Basin from a wide variety of public vantage points. The juxtaposition of the large-scale and continuous rugged mountain sequence beside the elevated 'farmed' river terrace landform of the Crown Terrace contributes to its memorability.
59. In some instances, the more developed context of the low-lying basin that signals the role of this part of the PA ONL as a gateway between the developed basin and seemingly untouched mountain-scape beyond, along with the magnificent broader mountain setting within which it is seen in many views, are also factors that contribute to its memorability.
60. The dramatic closer-range views from low-lying vantage points throughout the eastern side of the basin to the rugged and large-scale escarpment which forms a bold contrast with the developed setting throughout the basin floor.
61. The distinctive landscape layering that is apparent in longer-range views where the patterning of the escarpment, stepping up to the farmed terrace and backdropped by the line of mountains (along the eastern edge of the terrace) is visible.
62. The 'close up' experience of the alpine setting that the PA affords for many residents and visitors to Queenstown as a consequence of the relatively high accessibility of the area via the Crown Range Road.
63. The panoramic alpine landscape views afforded from ridgeline tracks.

Transient attributes and values:

64. Seasonal snowfall and the ever-changing patterning of light and weather across the mountain slopes.
65. Autumn leaf colour and seasonal loss of leaves associated with exotic vegetation.

Remoteness and wildness attributes and values:

66. A sense of remoteness across the mountains along the eastern side of the Crown Terrace, due to their coherent and continuous large-scale character and the limited level of built development evident.
67. A sense of wildness across the Crown Terrace Escarpment portion of the PA as a consequence of its continuous rugged character along with its generally 'undeveloped' and, in places, seemingly unkempt character. The contrast with the 'settled' and more manicured character of the basin plays an important role in this regard.
68. Such feelings reduce in the parts of the PA where forestry and the Crown Range Road are located.

Aesthetic attributes and values:

69. The experience of the values identified above from a wide range of public viewpoints.
70. More specifically:
 - a. The highly attractive and memorable composition created by the continuous 'wall' of rugged and dramatic mountains backdropping the distinctive river terrace escarpment, which together frame the eastern side of the Whakatipu Basin.
 - b. At a finer scale, the following aspects contribute to the aesthetic appeal:
 - i. The cone like peak of Mt Beetham and its distinctive roche moutonnée profile.
 - ii. The uninterrupted and muscular sequence of predominantly tussock-clad steep to more rounded mountains and ridges along the eastern side of the Crown Terrace.
 - iii. The seemingly wild escarpment landform that forms a 'wall' along the eastern side of the basin floor and serves as a transition between the basin floor and the working rural landscape of the Crown Terrace.
 - iv. The ever-changing play of light and weather patterns across the mountain slopes.
 - v. The confinement of appreciable visible built development to the Crown Range Road.
 - vi. The very limited level of built modification evident through the ONL.
71. It is noted that control of plant pests species such as wilding pines can temporarily detract from aesthetic values.

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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These various combined physical, associative, and perceptual attributes and values described above for PA ONL Eastern Whakatipu Basin can be summarised as follows:

72. **High physical values** due to the high-value landforms, vegetation features, habitats, species, hydrological features and mana whenua features in the area.
73. **High associative values** relating to:
 - a. The mana whenua associations of the area.
 - b. The strong shared and recognised values associated with the area.
 - c. The significant recreational attributes of the network of walking and biking tracks in the area.
 - d. The scenic values associated with Crown Range Road.
74. **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 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 Arrowtown, the Whakatipu Basin, the scenic routes of the Crown Range Road and SH6, parts of the Queenstown Trail network, the Remarkables Ski Field Access Road, Coronet Peak Road, and the airport approach path, along with the area's transient values, play an important role.
 - c. A high perception of naturalness arising from the dominance of more natural landscape elements and patterns across the PA.
 - d. A strong sense of remoteness and/or wildness across the PA.

Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the PA ONL Eastern Whakatipu Basin 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 ONL values.
- ii. **Visitor accommodation and tourism related activities – very limited** landscape capacity for visitor accommodation in low lying locations and clustered with existing buildings, that is: of a modest scale; have a low-key rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement; enhance public access and are consistent with the area's ONL values. **No** landscape capacity for tourism related activities.
- iii. **Urban expansions – no** landscape capacity.
- iv. **Intensive agriculture – no** landscape capacity.
- v. **Earthworks – very limited** landscape capacity for earthworks associated with farm, existing recreational facilities, or public access tracks, that protect naturalness and expressiveness attributes and values, and are sympathetically designed to 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.
 - i. **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.
- viii. **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 and/or co-located with existing infrastructure.
- ix. **Renewable energy generation** – **no** landscape capacity for commercial-scale renewable energy generation. **Limited** landscape capacity for discreetly located and small-scale renewable energy generation.
- x. **Production forestry** – **no** landscape capacity.
- xi. **Rural living** – **very limited** landscape capacity for rural living in low lying locations and clustered with existing buildings, that is: of a modest scale; have a low-key rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement; enhance public access and protects the area's ONL values.