

21.23.4 Church Road – Shortcut Road RCL

General Description of the Area

The Church Road – Shortcut Road PA generally takes in the area known as the Clutha Triangle immediately to the north of Luggate and defined by SH6, Church Road, and Shortcut Road. The mapped extent of the PA also includes the flat land on the west side of SH6 and the rural land to the east of Church Road adjoining the Clutha River.

Physical Attributes and Values

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

Important landforms and land types:

1. The flat terraced glacial outwash plain with a patterning of shallow scarps which collectively form a series of degradational river terraces stepping down from the west to the east.
2. Sandy areas, boulder rises and shallow dry swales of former paleochannels in places.
3. An area where more recent fluvial processes of erosion and sedimentation have reworked older alluvium associated with historic glaciations affecting the landscape.

Important hydrological features:

4. Luggate Creek, which is a complex winding channel along the south-eastern edge of the PA (to the east of Church Road).
5. The ephemeral water courses draining from the mountains to the south across and around the terrace edges that are artificially channelled in places and discharge to the Clutha River. These channels tend to flow only during prolonged rainfall.

Important ecological features and vegetation types:

6. Particularly noteworthy indigenous vegetation features include:
 - a. Mature crack willow and broom along the margins of Luggate Creek.
7. Other distinctive vegetation types include:
 - a. Grazing and cropping with scattered exotic shelterbelts throughout the land straddling SH6.
 - b. Tree crops, flower crops and orchards on the lower terrace.
 - c. Amenity and shelter plantings around rural and rural living dwellings and farm buildings.
 - d. Poplar and willow plantings across terraces bordering the true right bank of Luggate Creek.

Important land use patterns and features:

8. Low-density rural living, horticultural and hobby farming dominate land use throughout the PA. Lot sizes are generally between 2 and 20ha in size.
9. Church Road and Shortcut Road as local rural roads.

10. The margins of the Luggate Creek along the south-eastern edge of the PA which are identified as a Marginal Strip.
11. SH6 which passes through the western side of the PA.
12. A small area of rural industrial type landuse near the Grandview Bridge.
13. Neighbouring land uses which have an influence on the landscape character of the area due to their scale, character, and/or proximity include:
 - a. The very close proximity of Luggate settlement which extends across the river terraces to the southeast of the PA, with some of the more elevated terraces having a visual connection to the PA.
 - b. The Te Rua Tupāpaku (Clutha River near Luggate) ONL and associated DoC Reserve and river track extending along the eastern side of the PA.
 - c. The Luggate River Track along the south (true right) side of Luggate Creek extending along the south-eastern side of the PA.
 - d. The open and flat expanse of the intensively farmed Hāwea Flats to the north of the PA.
 - e. The forestry plantings throughout the terrace escarpment along the western side of the PA.

Mana whenua features and their locations:

14. 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.
15. Parts of the RCL overlap with the mapped wāhi tūpuna Mata-au (Clutha River) and Te Rua Tūpāpaku.
16. The Mata-au (Clutha River) is a Statutory Acknowledgement under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.
17. Te Rua Tūpāpaku is recorded as a fortified permanent pā.

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 experiences are:

18. Kāi Tahu whakapapa connections to whenua and wai generate a kaitiaki duty to uphold the mauri of all important landscape areas.
19. The Mata-au (Clutha River) takes its name from a Kāi Tahu whakapapa that traces the genealogy of water. On that basis, the Mata-au is seen as a descendant of the creation traditions.
20. The Mata-au was part of inland mahika kai trails and was also a key transportation route for pounamu from inland areas to settlements on the coast.
21. Te Rua Tūpāpaku is a kāika mahika kai located on the Mata-au where weka, tuna (eels) and kauru (cabbage tree root) were gathered. It is also recorded as a fortified permanent pā.

22. The mana whenua values associated with this area include, but may not be limited to, wāhi taoka, ara tawhito, mahika kai, nohoaka, urupā, pā, wāhi tapu.

Important historic attributes and values:

23. Association with early pastoral land use and gold mining.

Important shared and recognised attributes and values:

24. The identity of the area as a green edge to Luggate.
25. The popularity of the area as an entry/exit point on the Upper Clutha River Track.
26. The close proximity of the PA to the Grandview Bridge (or the 'red bridge') to the north of the PA (which is described as one of the most attractively proportioned steel bridges in Aotearoa).

Important recreation attributes and values:

27. SH6 Wanaka Luggate Highway as a key scenic route linking between Wanaka and Cromwell.
28. Shortcut Road as a key scenic route linking between Wanaka (and the West Coast) and the Lindis Pass.
29. The Upper Clutha River Track in close proximity to the PA.

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:

30. The flat expanse of the outwash plain and river terraces are expressive of the interaction of the glacial and fluvial processes that have shaped, and are continuing to shape, the Upper Clutha valley.

Particularly important views to and from the area:

31. The sequence of attractive long-range and expansive 'rural' views from SH6, Church Road and Shortcut Road across the PA to the northern end of the Pisa Range and across to the Grandview Range. The cropping and pastoral land of the PA contributes a strong 'working farm' rural character, with most built development displaying a distinctly working rural character or obscured by vegetation. The appearance of an almost continuous patterning of rural landuse across the PA and beyond to the north and west reinforces the coherence of the underlying river terrace landforms. The openness of the rural landscape to the east of the highway confers a memorable sense of a 'big sky' landscape.
32. The expansive very long-range 'rural' views from the elevated urban areas of Luggate to the southeast, in which the PA forms part of the broad sweep of the Upper Clutha Basin rural plains, framed by a continuous circle of dramatic mountains (ONL).
33. Attractive rural views to the PA from the river tracks (ONL) around its eastern and south-eastern edges.

Naturalness attributes and values:

34. Perceptions of naturalness and of a working rural character are largely maintained for people visiting the landscape, although this is compromised to some extent by the number of partially visible houses and the rural industry.

35. Overall, there is a moderate level of naturalness with a predominance of natural, rather than built, elements; but human intervention as managed farmland, horticultural blocks, rural industry, and rural living is evident.

Memorability attributes and values:

36. Memorable to residents and locals as a ‘green edge’ to Luggate.

Transient attributes and values:

37. Autumn leaf colour and seasonal loss of leaves associated with the exotic vegetation.
38. Seasonal horticultural crop foliage and pasture colours.
39. The changing shadow patterns from shelter belts and the presence of stock and wildlife such as hawks.

Remoteness/wildness attributes and values:

40. Impressions of rural tranquillity and quietness which are localised to parts of Church Road away from rural living and rural industry uses and along stretches of the river edge tracks adjoining the PA where intervening landform and vegetation patterns screen views to buildings within the PA and further afield in Luggate.

Aesthetic qualities and values:

41. The attractive and distinctly rural ‘big sky’ views to the mountain ranges surrounding the Upper Clutha Basin. The dominance of natural elements including pasture, crops, and trees and the subservience of built elements play an important role in shaping the quality of these views.
42. The juxtaposition between the tamed rural land, the rougher character along the river and creek corridors and the urban grain of Luggate further afield.

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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The combined physical, associative, and perceptual attributes and values described above for PA RCL Church Road – Shortcut Road can be summarised as follows:

43. **Moderate physical values** relating to the productive soils and associated agricultural and horticultural land uses, the glacially formed outwash plain/alluvial fans of the valley floor that have subsequently been reworked, the mana whenua features in the area and the strong patterns of rural land use.
44. **Moderate associative values** relating to the mana whenua associations of the area, the recreational use of Te Rua Tupāpaku (Clutha River near Luggate) and Luggate Creek, and the shared and recognised values of the area for residents and locals as a green edge to Luggate.
45. **Moderate perceptual values** relating to the expressiveness of the river terrace ‘tread and riser’ landforms, the coherence of land use patterns, the strong rural character, the expansive and scenic rural views, and the moderate level of naturalness, with built development remaining subservient to more natural landscape elements and patterns.

Landscape Capacity

The landscape capacity of the PA RCL Church Road – Shortcut Road for a range of activities is set out below.

- i. **Commercial recreational activities – very limited** landscape capacity for small-scale and low-key activities that: integrate with and complement/enhance existing recreation features; are located to optimise the screening and/or filtering benefit of natural landscape elements; designed to be of a modest scale, have a 'low-key' rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement (where appropriate); enhance public access (where appropriate); and maintain or enhance the landscape values of the PA.
- ii. **Visitor accommodation and tourism related activities – limited** capacity for activities that are located to optimise the screening and/or filtering benefit of natural landscape elements; designed to be of a modest scale, have a 'low-key' rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement (where appropriate); enhance public access (where appropriate); and maintain or enhance the landscape values of the PA. **No** landscape capacity for tourism related activities.
- iii. **Urban expansions – no** landscape capacity.
- iv. **Intensive agriculture – no** landscape capacity where soils and available water allocation support the activity, and where aesthetic attributes and values are maintained.
- v. **Earthworks – limited** landscape capacity to absorb earthworks associated with farming and rural living/visitor accommodation activities that maintain naturalness and expressiveness values and integrate with existing natural landform patterns.
- vi. **Farm buildings – some** landscape capacity for modestly scaled buildings that reinforce the existing rural character.
- vii. **Mineral extraction – very limited** landscape capacity.
- viii. **Transport infrastructure – some** 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 maintain or enhance the landscape values of the PA. **No** landscape capacity for other transport infrastructure.
- ix. **Utilities and regionally significant infrastructure – limited** landscape capacity for additional district-scale 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. **Very limited** landscape capacity for larger-scale regionally significant infrastructure.
- x. **Renewable energy generation – some** landscape capacity for small-scale wind or solar generation located where topography ensures it is not highly visible from public places. **Very limited** landscape capacity for larger-scale commercial renewable energy generation.
- xi. **Production forestry – very limited** landscape capacity for scattered small woodlots of up to 2 hectares in area.
- xii. **Rural living – very limited** landscape capacity to absorb additional rural living without cumulative adverse effects on associative and perceptual values. The rural character of the PA is vulnerable to fragmentation and 'domestication' through rural living development. Any additional rural living should be set well back from roads and public tracks; co-located with existing development; located to optimise the screening and/or filtering benefit of natural landscape elements; designed to be of a modest scale; have a 'low-key' rural character; integrate landscape restoration and enhancement (where appropriate); enhance public access (where appropriate); and should maintain the impression of expansive rural views from public vantage points.

