

1 Caversham Highway Improvements

Project progress

Brilliant summer weather has been a big help in making excellent progress with this project over the last few months. Some very obvious changes to the landscape have occurred including the removal of the houses and vegetation from within the worksite 'footprint', and more recently the removal of the stone retaining wall opposite Aberfeldy Street.

Earthworks and pavements

On the earthworks front, the northern side of the site is nearing completion with only a small portion left to complete by Aberfeldy Street.

The construction team has removed approximately 5000m³ of unsuitable material from the site and trucked in approximately 30,000m³ of new material to form the foundation of the new carriageway.

Although the new downhill carriageway will be sealed for winter, it is unlikely to be carrying traffic until spring. The new footpath on the downhill side will be available for use - improving the safety of pedestrians between Mornington Road and Aberfeldy Street.

Good progress is also being made in the excavation of the embankment and stone retaining wall above Burnett Street. The stone wall which is more tailored in construction further up Caversham Valley will remain.

A temporary footpath across the top of this excavation has been formed for pedestrians in this lower section of Caversham Valley, and this also provides a great vantage point for watching the construction team in action! The temporary footpath follows the line of the orange netting at the top of the excavation (see middle picture on right).

Interesting finds

During earthworks in the Lookout Point Reserve, what appears to be an historic reservoir was uncovered.

The reservoir was carved into the natural sandstone bedrock with clean water channelled through a fracture in the rock. Even the steps appear to have been carved with hand tools into the sandstone. The site was photographed and recorded for the Historic Places Trust who are investigating the reservoir's origins.



Caversham Valley peripatus on the move

Through the efforts of volunteers, new habitats were created in nearby reserves for the peripatus. Significant numbers of the creature were found within the worksite footprint, and moved to the new habitat area. Ongoing monitoring and the creation of a long-term management plan will aid the survival of this rare invertebrate.



Caversham Valley peripatus, 2-3 cms long, known also as the 'velvet worm.' (Photo supplied by the Otago Daily Times)

Looking ahead

The focus of the construction programme for the next two months will remain on completing the remaining earthworks and construction of the new carriageway lanes on the northern side of the site.

Major drainage replacements will also get underway starting from Caversham Place and extend up the valley to South Road.

MAY-JULY WORK PROGRAMME

	MAY	JUNE	JULY
Complete bulk uphill earthworks above Burnett Street to opposite Aberfeldy Street			
Construct new downhill carriageway and footpath between the Lookout Point Reserve and Aberfeldy Street			
Commence new drainage and stormwater installation on uphill side from Caversham Place to opposite Aberfeldy Street			
Commence site clearance and earthworks in apex between upper South Road and Caversham Valley Road			

Website

A website has been developed with the latest project information. A new web camera is being installed shortly so you can view construction progress and check out traffic flows.

www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/caversham-highway/

Contacts and feedback

If you have any questions about this project please contact: NZ Transport Agency contact: **Simon Underwood, Projects Team Leader, Phone 03 955 2938.**

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