

# Ōpārara Upgrade Project Update

## June 2021

Welcome to the June update of the Ōpārara Upgrade Project.

### Track upgrades

We have almost completed the Mirror Tarn track extension. This track will complete the loop from the main Ōpārara carpark to Moria Gate, on to Mirror Tarn and back to the main carpark without having visitors walking along the road edge.

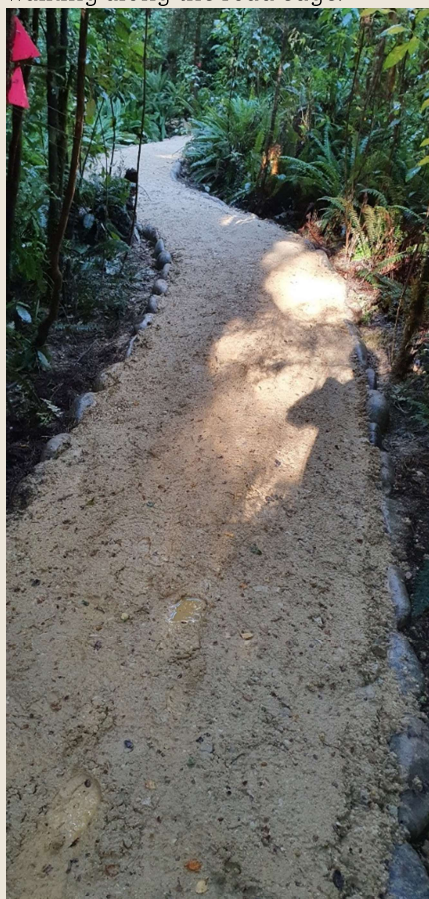


Figure 1 Mirror Tarn track extension

Realignment work on the Ōpārara Arch track has begun near the Ōpārara Arch. This work will take visitors away from the river's edge and up to the limestone overhang before dropping down into the main Ōpārara Arch.

### Structures upgrades

Moria Gate entranceway upgrade is due to be completed by July with the installation of limestone inground steps. This work will make the entranceway safer to visitors while protecting the existing limestone formations on site.

The widening of the timber bridge on the Ōpārara Arch track approximately 2/3rds of the way along and the construction of the viewing structure at Mirror Tarn are intended to be completed later in the year.

The final piece of track and structures that were proposed, looked to bypass the steps on the Ōpārara Arch track. The proposed for this section of the track included an elevated boardwalk that traversed along the limestone bluff taking visitors over the Ōpārara River along a gentle grade. A recent geotechnical report of the stability of the limestone bluff that the elevated walkway was proposed to be on raised concerns over this piece of work. The team is currently working through options for the site that will still achieve a high visitor experience with increased accessibility and a safer track for visitors.

### Ōpārara Access Road Upgrade

The final road design is currently underway with the construction tender due to go out later in the year.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

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