



A unique wetland environment

Bexley Wetland

A wilderness experience

Expansive views to the Port Hills and Alps, abundant birdlife, saltmarsh, saltmeadow, coastal bush and freshwater wetlands - a visit to Bexley Wetland is a diverse wilderness experience close to the City.



History

Extensive wetlands once clothed Christchurch and were a source of mahinga kai (food and other resources) for Maori. The area retains its cultural importance. Dairy herds were grazed on the site for some time and food grown for the war effort. The area was also used as a scrap metal yard, which has contaminated some of the site. Community groups began lobbying the Christchurch City Council to protect the wetland in 1984. In 1992, 12.5 hectares of the site were designated as an Ecological Heritage Site and protected from future development.

Restoring and protecting the wetland

Who gets involved?

The protection and restoration of Bexley Wetland is the result of a partnership between the Christchurch City Council, local residents and schools, and other community groups. Activities include involvement in decision-making, planting, maintenance and education.



- Please
- Keep dogs on leads to protect birds
 - Dogs are not permitted off walking tracks.
 - Do not feed the birds as this affects the type of birds attracted to the wetland and bird health
 - Leave vegetation as you find it
- Thank you

Protect Bexley Wetland

Learning through Action

Christchurch City Council
Phone 941 8999
fax 941 8033
Email: leisureandparks@ccc.govt.nz
www.ccc.govt.nz/parks

Park rangers offer free education programmes for schools. Contact our teachers for bookings: learningthroughaction@ccc.govt.nz or check out the website www.ccc.govt.nz/learningthroughaction

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A range of fish species live in the nearby Avon River and estuary. Restored tidal flows into the wetland may allow fish species such as mullet, shortfin eel, inanga, and common and giant bully to recolonise the area.

An abundance of invertebrates and crustaceans such as mud crab live in the mudflats.

What's under the water and in the mud?



The restoration of plant communities requires the reintroduction of tidal waters into the site, the isolation of freshwater wetlands, and appropriate planting. Plant pests such as grasses and willows are being controlled.

Restoring plant communities

Bexley Wetland restoration goal

To protect existing plant communities, and to restore lost or damaged plant communities and wetland bird feeding, nesting and roosting habitat, while providing public access for recreation and education.



What is planned?

A plan outlining future developments has been prepared. Proposals include the further development and protection of bird habitats, the protection of springs, appropriate planting, and site management. Walking tracks, seating and on-site information about the wetland have been installed to enhance the experience.

Planning a visit?

Visit regularly, as different times of the year will offer different experiences at Bexley Wetland as the plants and birds change with the seasons. Contact the Christchurch City Council Ranger Service to arrange group tours of the wetlands.



Grey teal (tete)



New Zealand shoveler (hono)



Grey duck (parera)



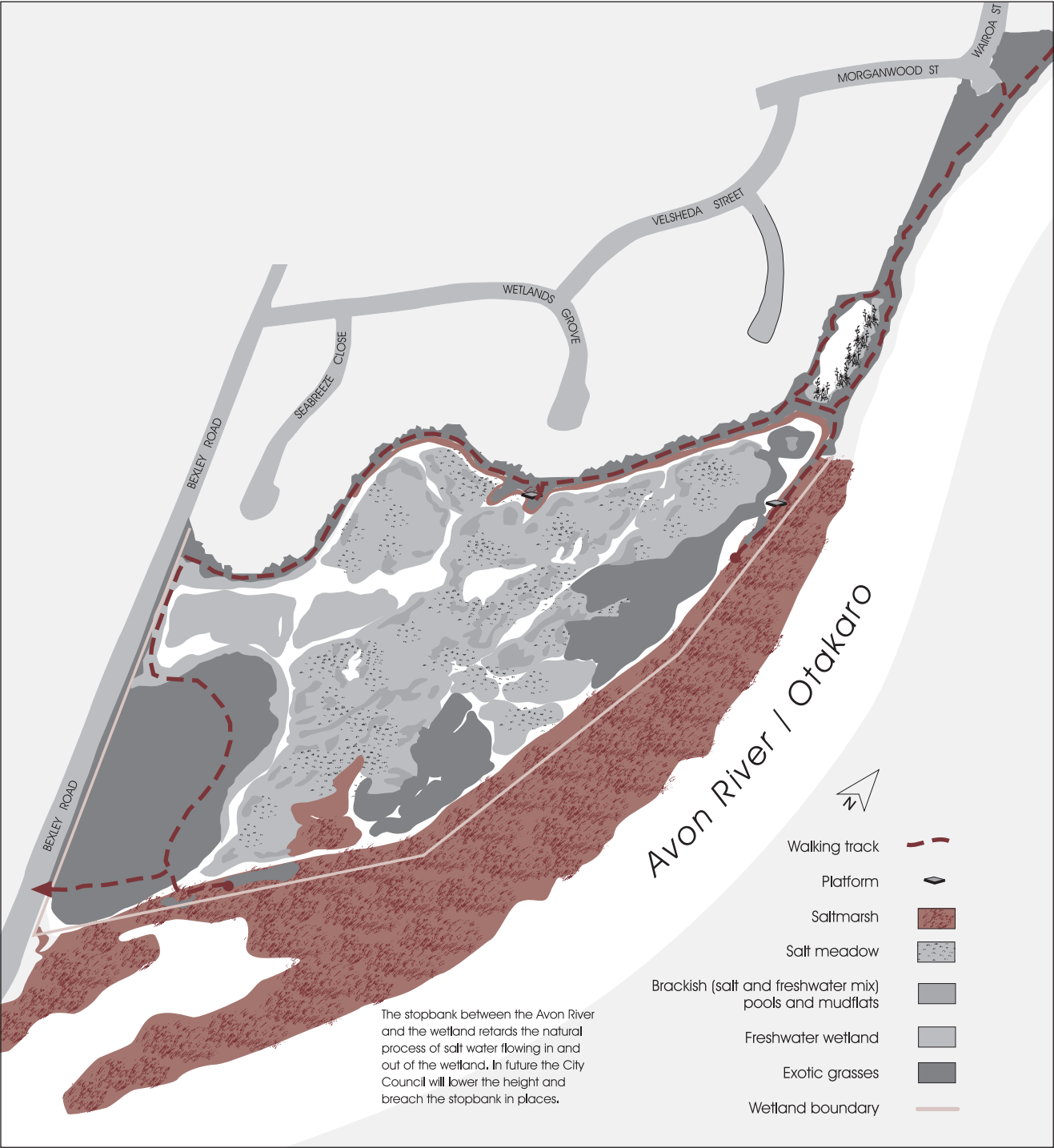
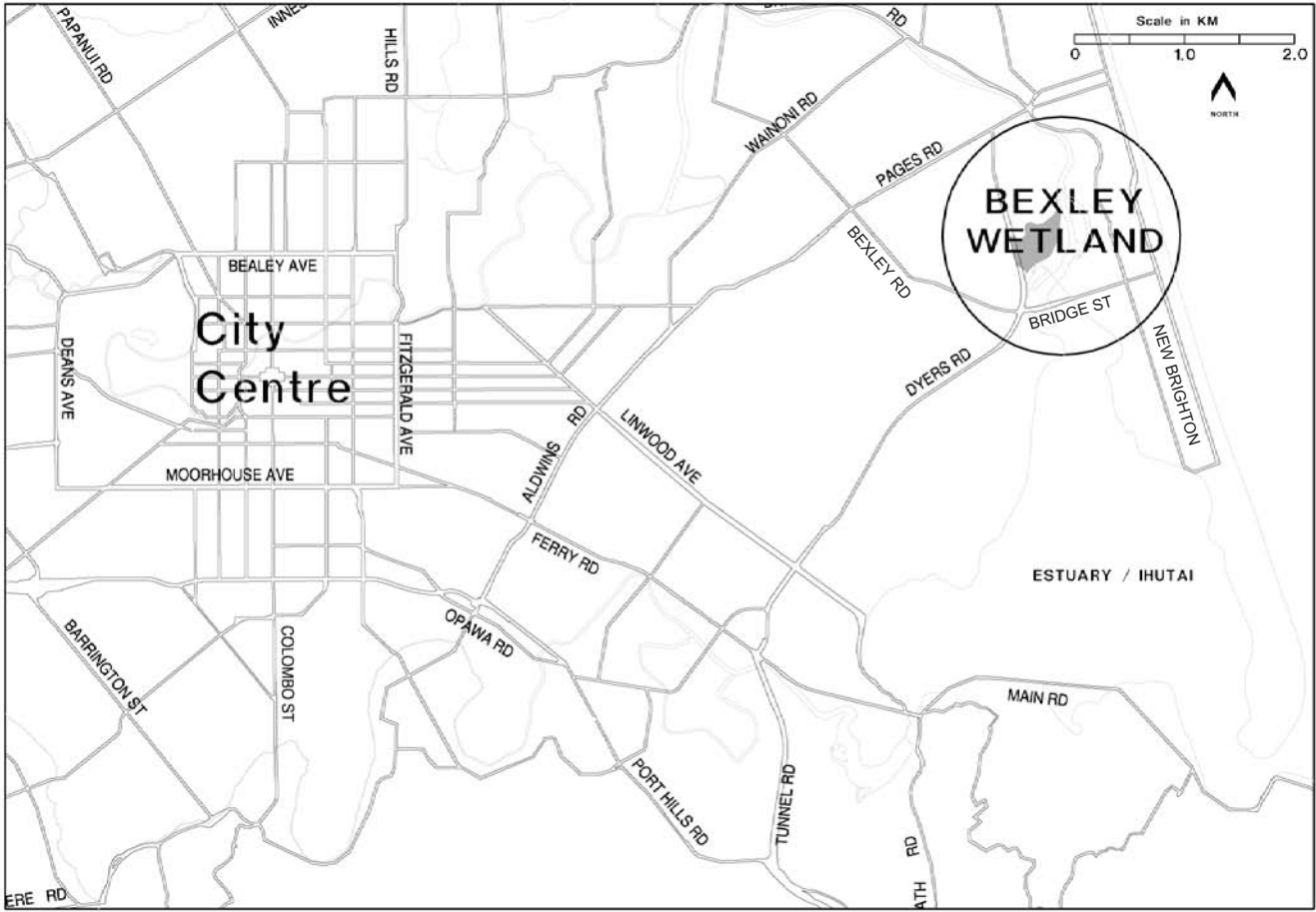
New Zealand scaup (papango)



Paradise shelduck (male)
(putangitangi)



Paradise shelduck
(female)(putangitangi)



A better place for birdlife

The nearby estuary is largely hard-edged leaving few places with a natural ecological gradient from saline ecosystems to freshwater ecosystems. Bexley Wetland has space and the potential to be an excellent bird habitat for roosting, feeding and nesting once natural gradients are restored, islands are created, and the area is protected from predators by a moat. Bexley Wetland provides another link in an important chain of wetlands along Canterbury's coast.

- Birds to see at Bexley Wetland
- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Banded dotterel | Paradise shelduck |
| Grey duck | Pied stilt |
| Grey teal | Pukeko |
| Gulls - black-billed | Shag |
| - red-billed | Cormorant |
| - black-backed | Spur-winged plover |
| Harrier | Welcome swallow |
| Mallard | White-faced heron |
| Marsh crake | Royal spoonbill |
| New Zealand kingfisher | Bar-tailed godwit |
| New Zealand scaup | A range of native and introduced passerines (eg. sparrows, starlings etc) |
| New Zealand shoveler | |



Welcome swallow



White-faced heron



Pukeko