

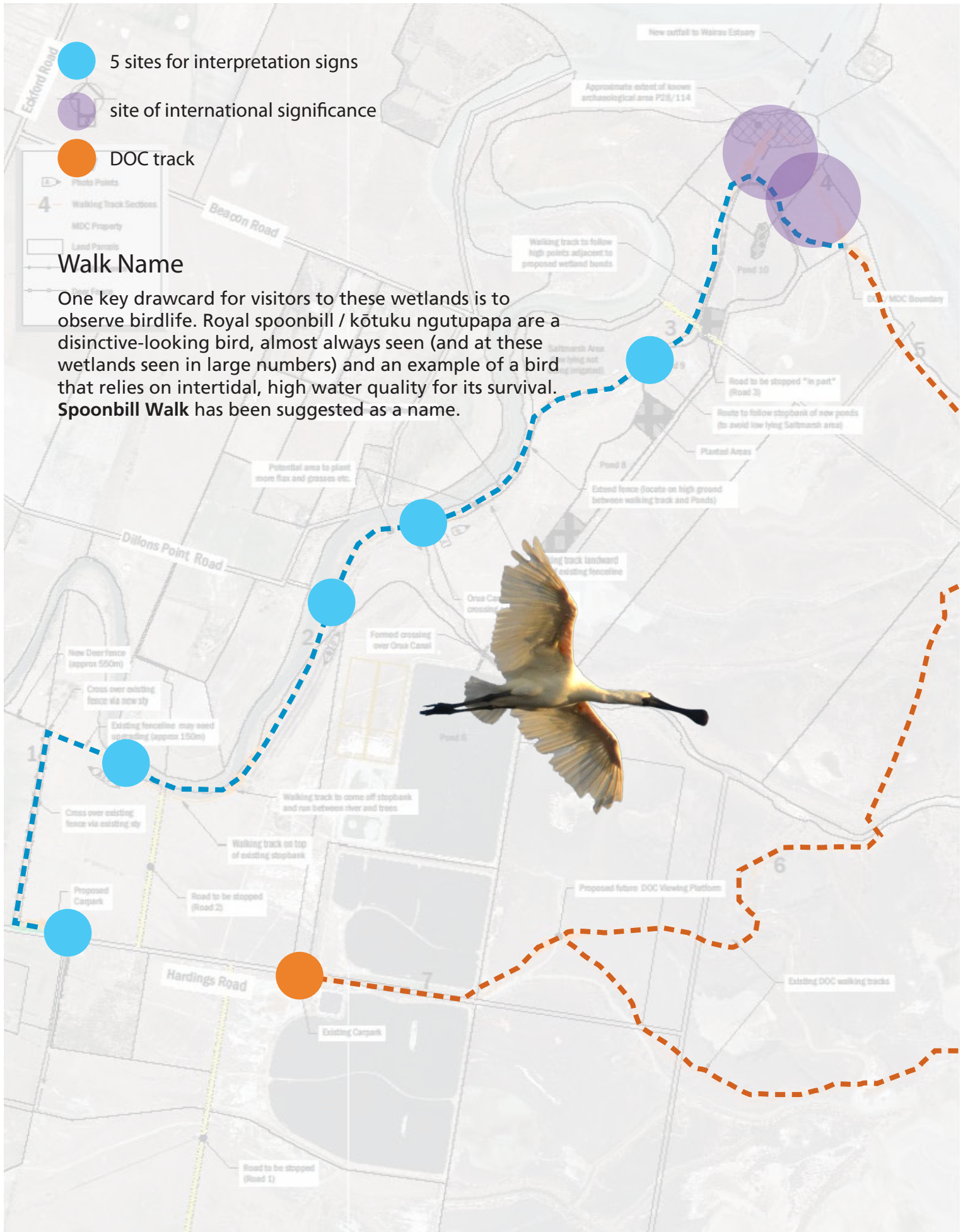
Blenheim Sewage Treatment Plant : Wetland Walk Interpretation Sign Plan

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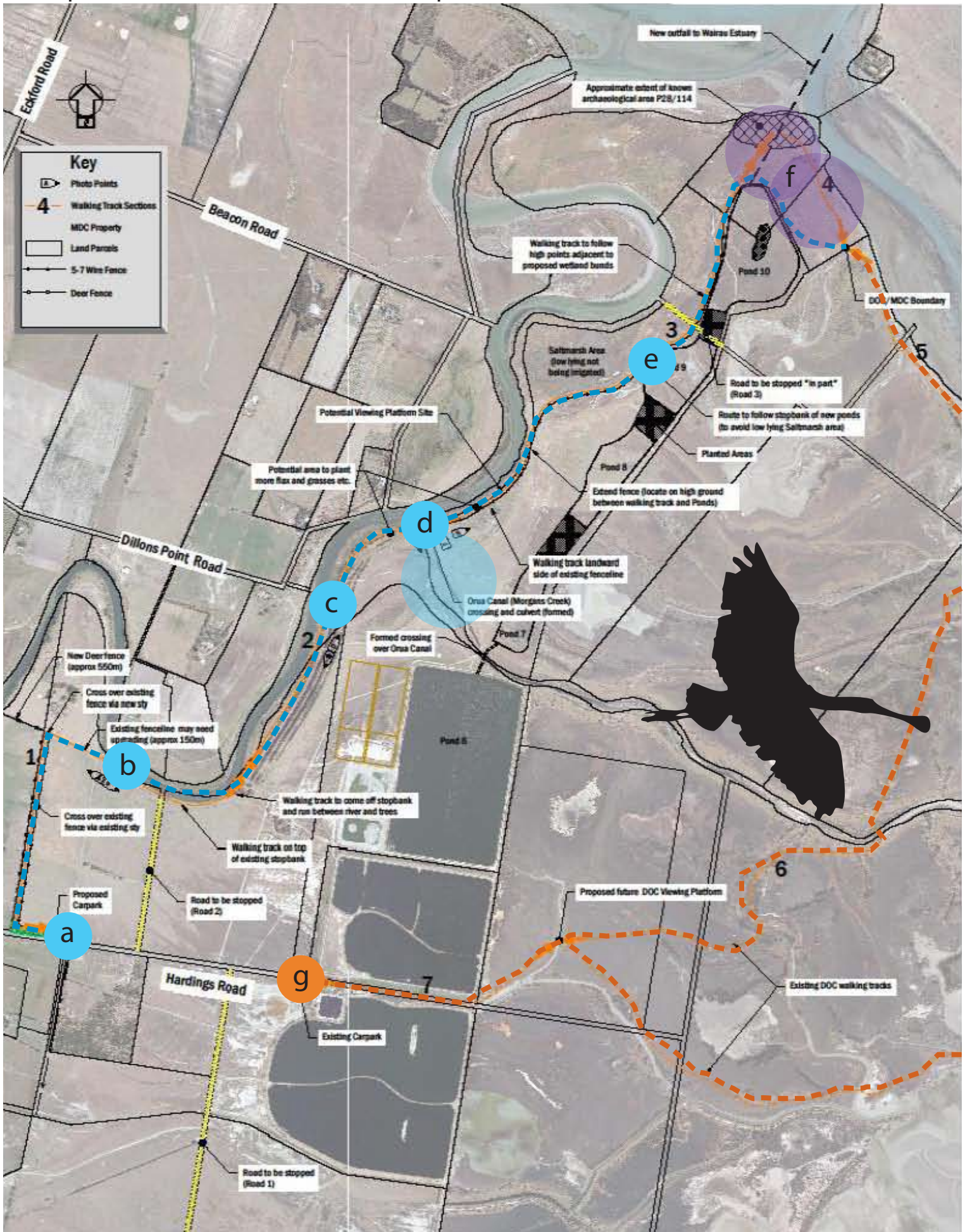
Wetland Walk: overview



Walk Name

One key drawcard for visitors to these wetlands is to observe birdlife. Royal spoonbill / kōtuku ngutupapa are a distinctive-looking bird, almost always seen (and at these wetlands seen in large numbers) and an example of a bird that relies on intertidal, high water quality for its survival. **Spoonbill Walk** has been suggested as a name.

Spoonbill Walk : orientation / interpretation sites



a ENTRANCE b OPAWA RIVER VIEW c MATATA CORNER d ORUA CANAL / PANORAMA 360 e TREATMENT PLANT
 WETLAND VIEWPOINT f KAITIAKI WAIRAU & BOUNDARY STILE g FINISH / START OF DOC TRACK

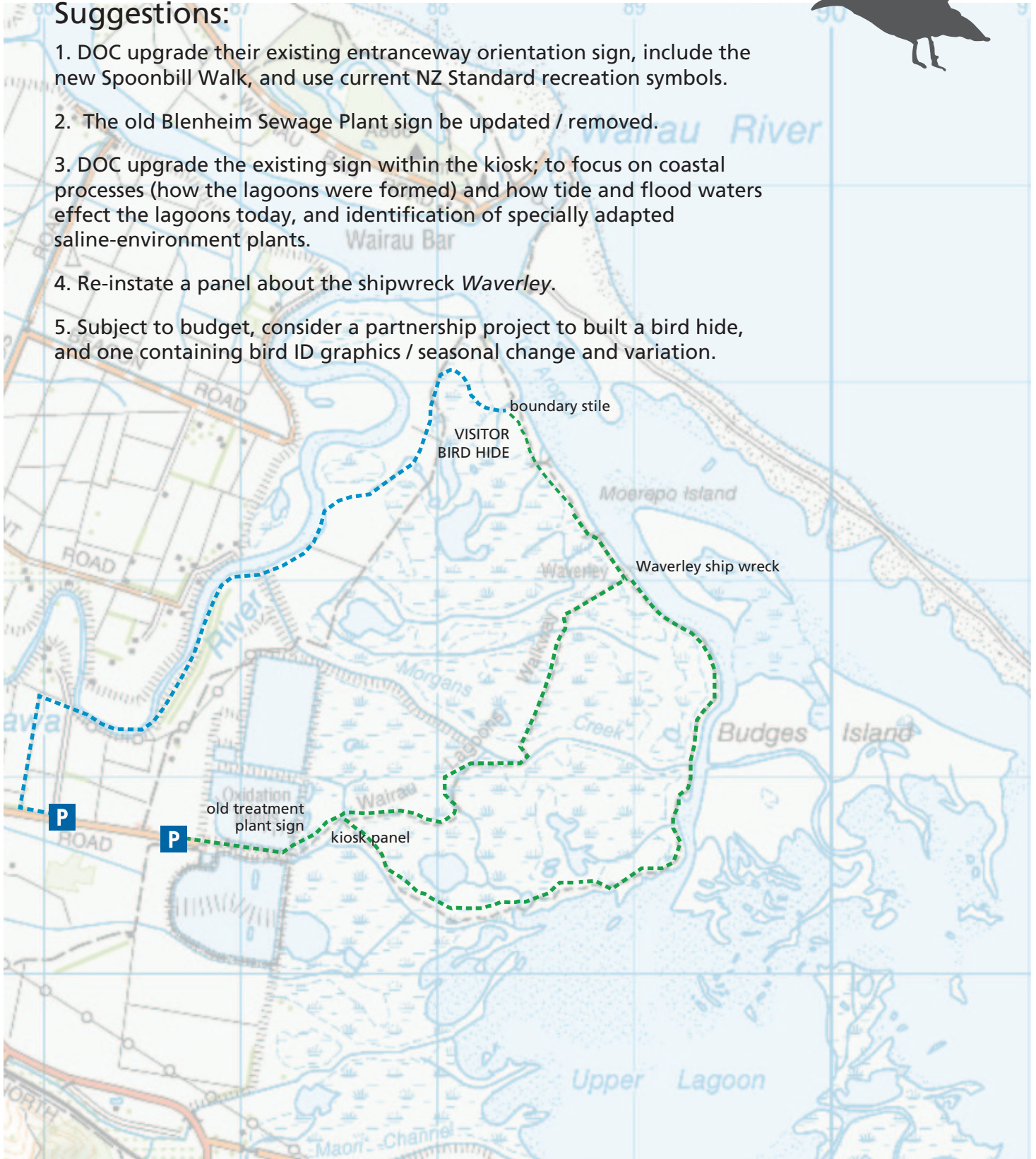
Wetland Walks : wider picture / total concept

The newly-formed Spoonbill Walk joins the established DOC track at the 'boundary stile'. Although crossing different land tenures, for visitors the tracks are part of a wider area and will be seen as one Wairau Lagoons walking/cycling network. The tracks can retain their individual names and identities – Spoonbill Walk and Wairau Lagoons Walk, which are useful for orientation, but there needs to be a co-ordinated approach to signage and interpretation.



Suggestions:

1. DOC upgrade their existing entranceway orientation sign, include the new Spoonbill Walk, and use current NZ Standard recreation symbols.
2. The old Blenheim Sewage Plant sign be updated / removed.
3. DOC upgrade the existing sign within the kiosk; to focus on coastal processes (how the lagoons were formed) and how tide and flood waters effect the lagoons today, and identification of specially adapted saline-environment plants.
4. Re-instate a panel about the shipwreck *Waverley*.
5. Subject to budget, consider a partnership project to built a bird hide, and one containing bird ID graphics / seasonal change and variation.

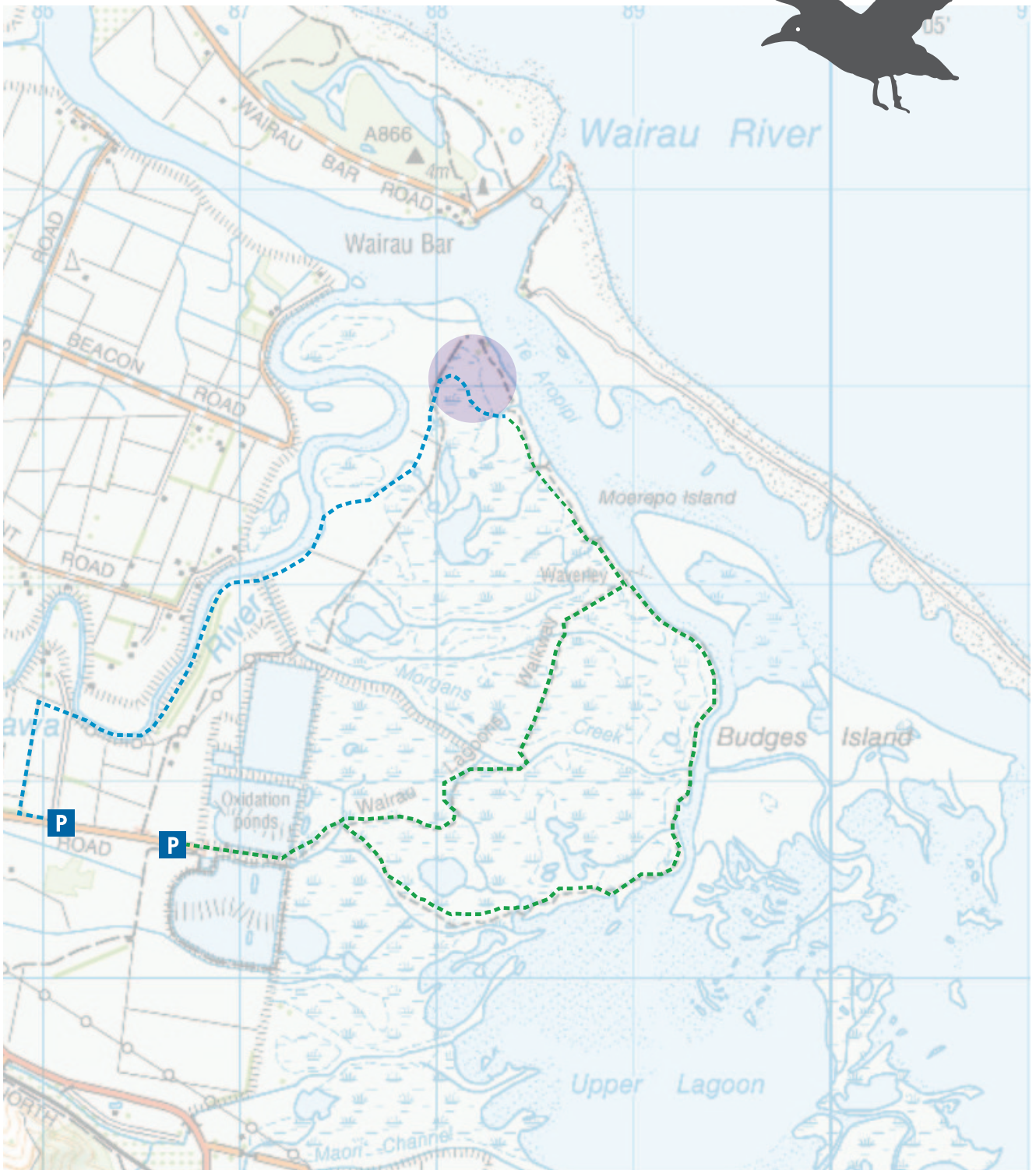
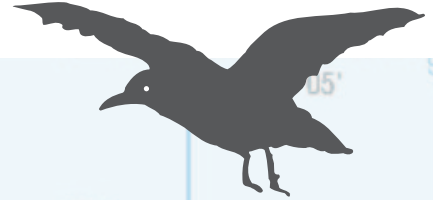


Spoonbill Walk : bird emphasis

The Spoonbill Walk interpretation will focus on bird watching and identification, and provide the background context for why this is such a rich bird area. Each interpretation sign will have images of two or three birds in addition to one “feature” bird.

Bird calls could also be featured on a Wairau Lagoons birdcall mobile app. that could also be accessed via a QR code; download instruction on the first orientation sign.

An observational bird hide could be designed as part of the Kaitiaki Wairau special area interpretation project (see page 13).



Spoonbill Walk : panel sites

a *Entrance Orientation*
orientation seen from road



b *Opawa River View*



c *Matata Corner*
direction change in trail



side 1 view north west towards restored wetlands



d *Orua Canal / Panorama 360*
side 2 view south east along canal

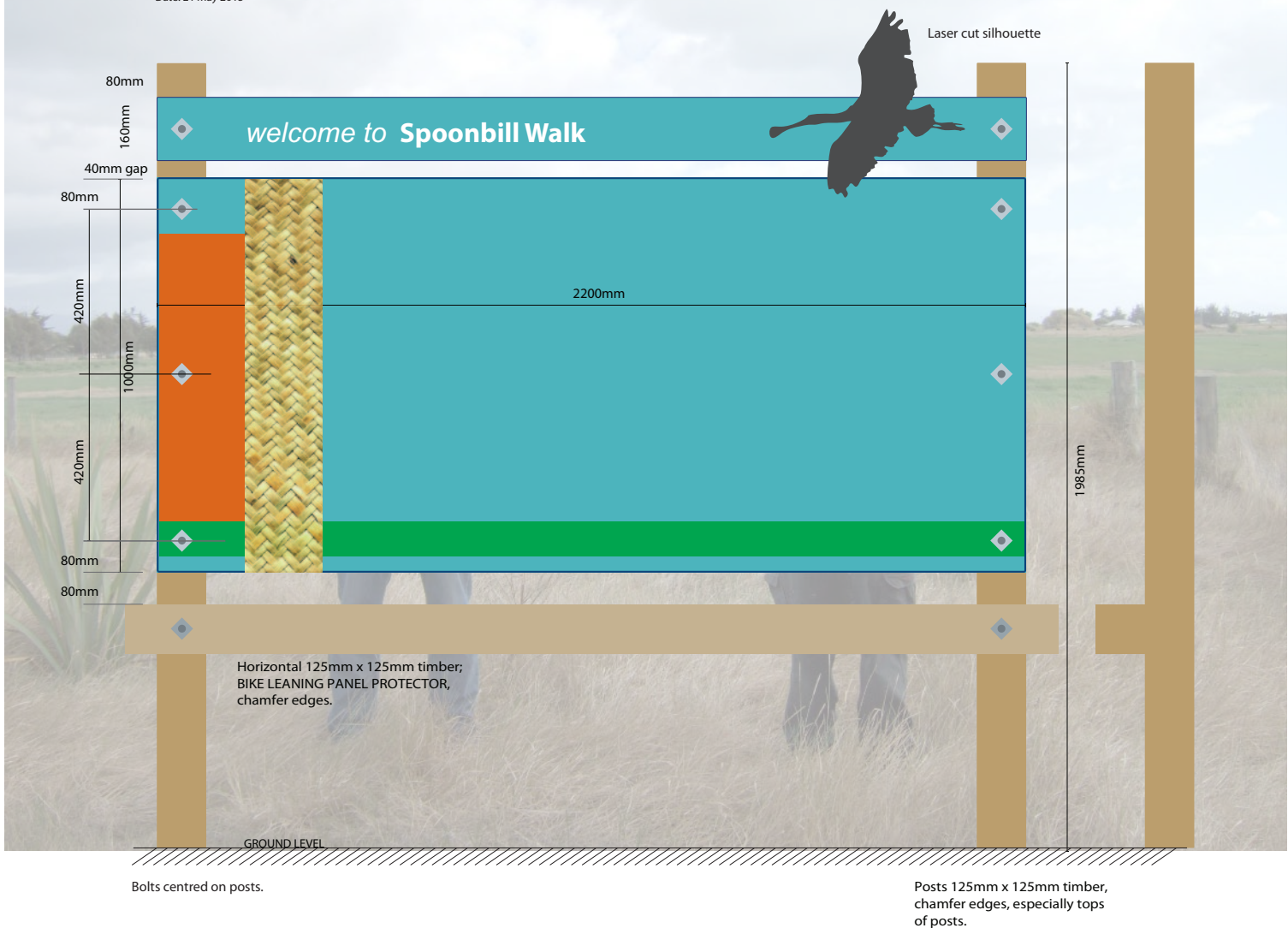


e *Treatment Plant Wetland View*
direction change in path



f

Site of international significance; further discussions required to establish interpretation requirements.



a

Sign Content: Orientation and Water Quality

Orientation Map – times and distances; walking & cycling; nearest toilet; destination names; please remember restrictions; duck shooting season; MDC trail; DOC trail; where to get more information contacts; logos.

Note on destinations: Interpretation signs serve as destinations along the track for those not wishing to walk or cycle the whole circuit; a simple seat at these places helps to establish a destination. Suggested names are – *Opawa View; Matata Corner; Orua Chanel/Panorama 360 (this site already has a platform seat); Treatment Plant Viewpoint; Kaitiaki Wairau; Boundary Stile.*

Orientation Overview – visual description using aerial oblique imagery of the wider area of the Wairau Lagoons; national significance / recent sewage treatment plant upgrade and trail formation.

Introduction to Water Quality – ecological / cultural (mauri) / importance of water quality / sewage plant requirements for treatment and discharge.

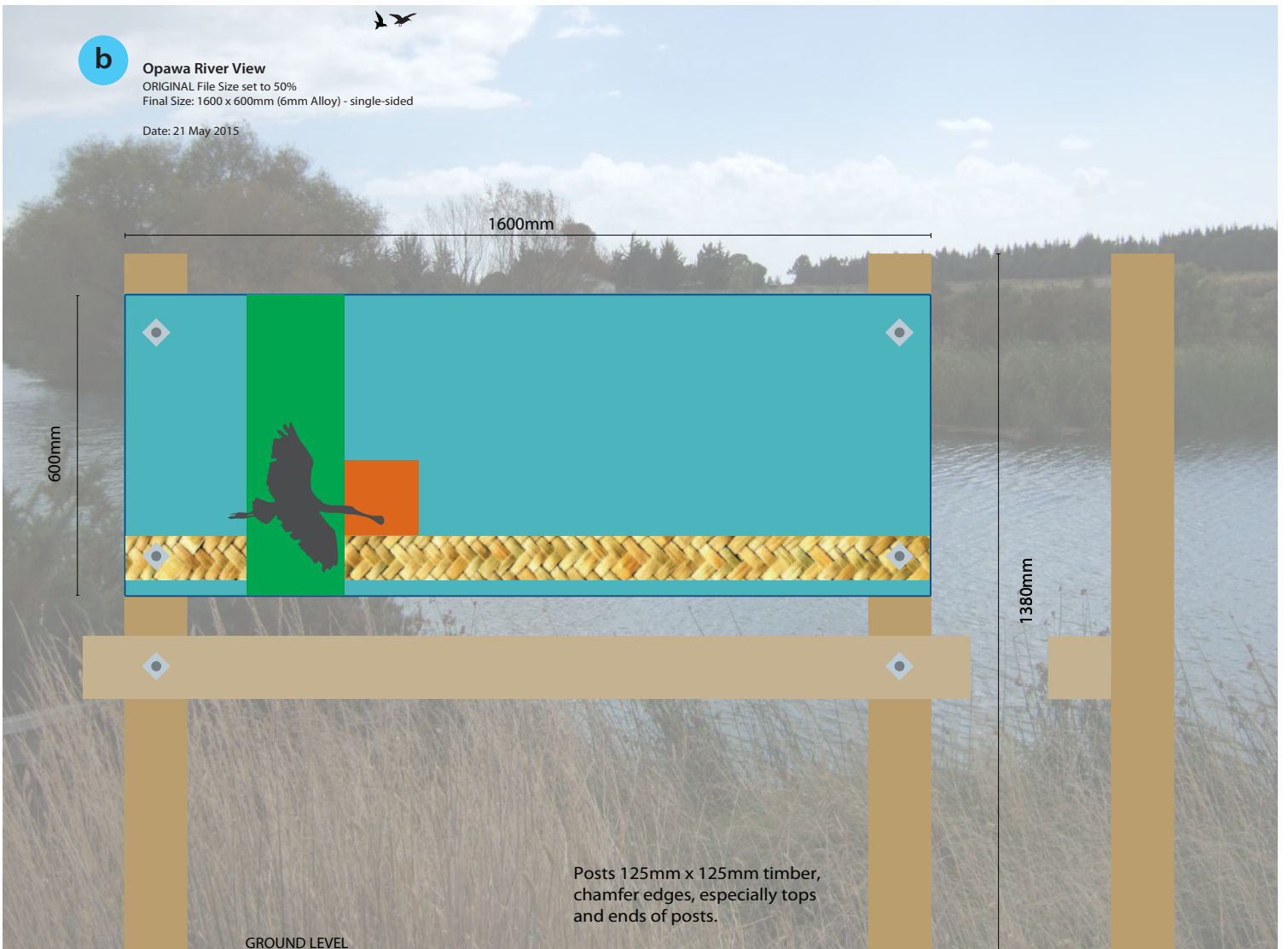
NOTE Water quality and mauri are the overarching themes for the interpretation. Topics cover the natural landscape and the cultural landscape.

b

Opawa River View

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Final Size: 1600 x 600mm (6mm Alloy) - single-sided

Date: 21 May 2015



Posts 125mm x 125mm timber,
chamfer edges, especially tops
and ends of posts.

b

Sign Content : **From the Opawa River to Cloudy Bay**

What's in there? – from the river to the sea ecology – tidal connections / kahawai and baracouta / inanga lifecycle / tuna lifecycle / shrimps / crabs; reliance on habitat and high water quality – freshwater, salt water, fish, plant and insect habitat is why this is such a rich bird area. Feature bird: **Kawau / Pied shag.**



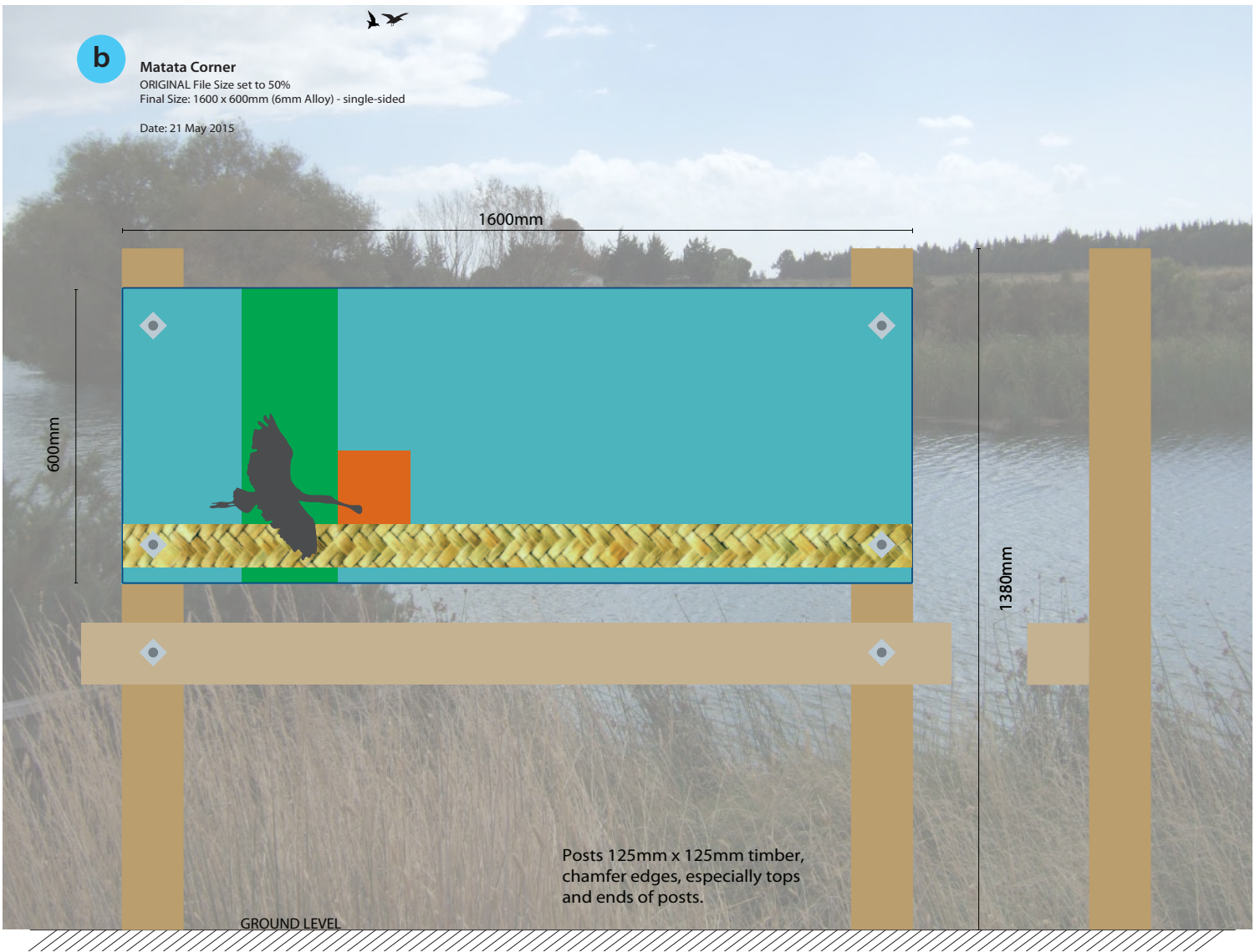


b

Matata Corner

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Final Size: 1600 x 600mm (6mm Alloy) - single-sided

Date: 21 May 2015



c

Sign Content : **Earthquakes, Farmers and Fernbirds**

European history and land modifications – river as highway to Beavertown / flax milling / drainage for farming / today's lifestyle blocks / over wintering blocks / return of the matata (the secretive fernbird) symbolising restoration of water quality and habitat. Feature bird: **Matata / Fernbird.**





d

Panorama 360 Site / Orua Canal – double-sided
ORIGINAL File Size set to 50%
Final Size: 1600 x 600mm (6mm Alloy) - double sided **SIDE 1 WETLAND ECOLOGY**

Date: 21 May 2015



d

Sign Content : **Why Restore a Wetland?**

Imagine the Wairau Lagoons as they once were, including forests. Restoration of a small pocket of wetland – the motivations, people & organisations behind the project. Wetland habitat for insects and gecko. Feature bird: **Kōtare / Kingfisher.**





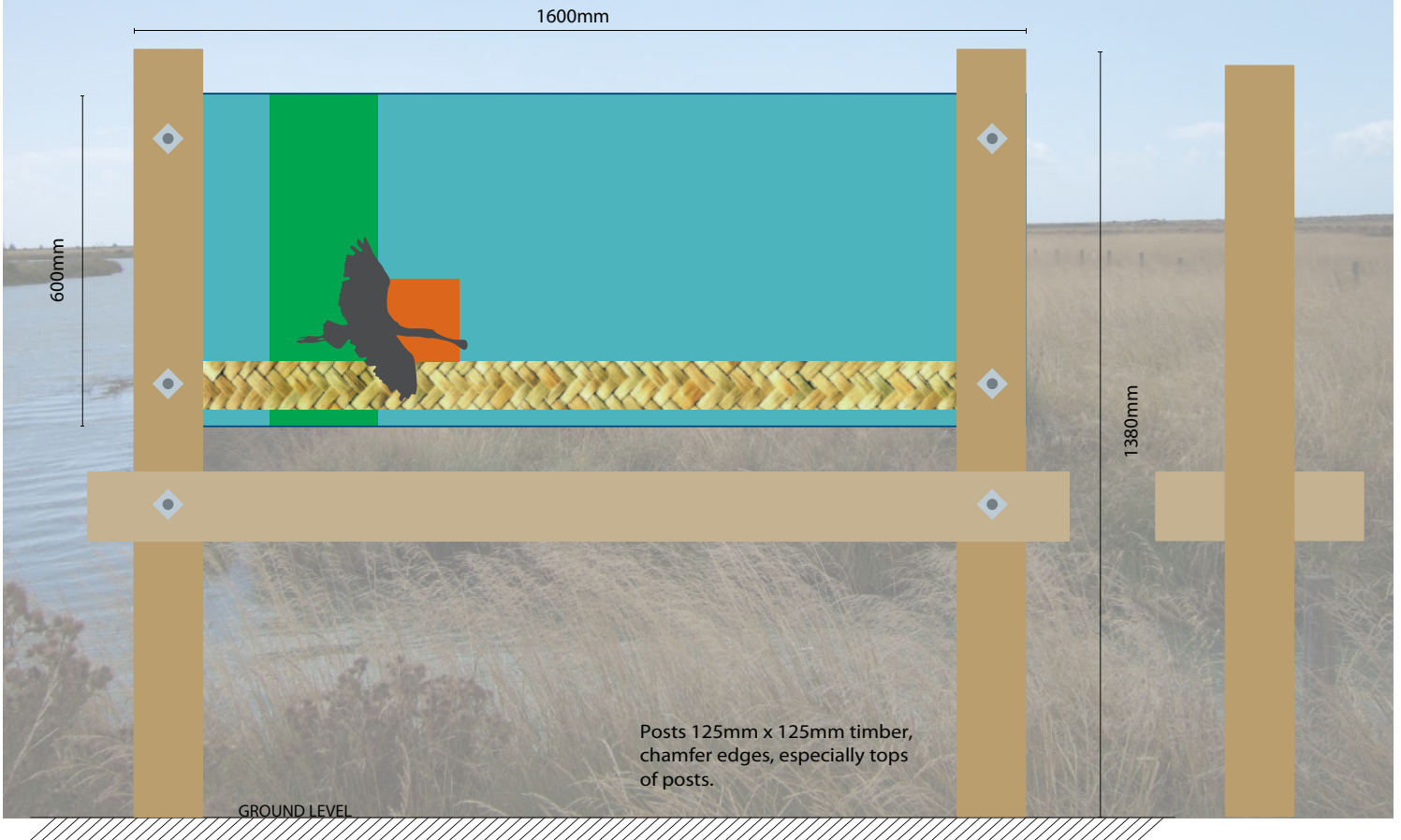
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Orua Canal / Panorama 360 Site – double-sided

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Final Size: 1600 x 600mm (6mm Alloy) - double sided / **SIDE 2 ORUA CANAL**

Date: 21 May 2015



d

Sign Content: **Unearthing the Past**

Te Wahanga a Tangaroa – maintaining the vast mahinga kai in pre European times / fish trap canals and waterways / hunting birds, fishing, cooking and preserving methods / lifestyles / conservation values and high water quality = abundant and sustainable mahinga kai. Feature bird: **Parere / Grey duck** (how to spot them / interbreeding with introduced mallards / loss of habitat / threatened species).





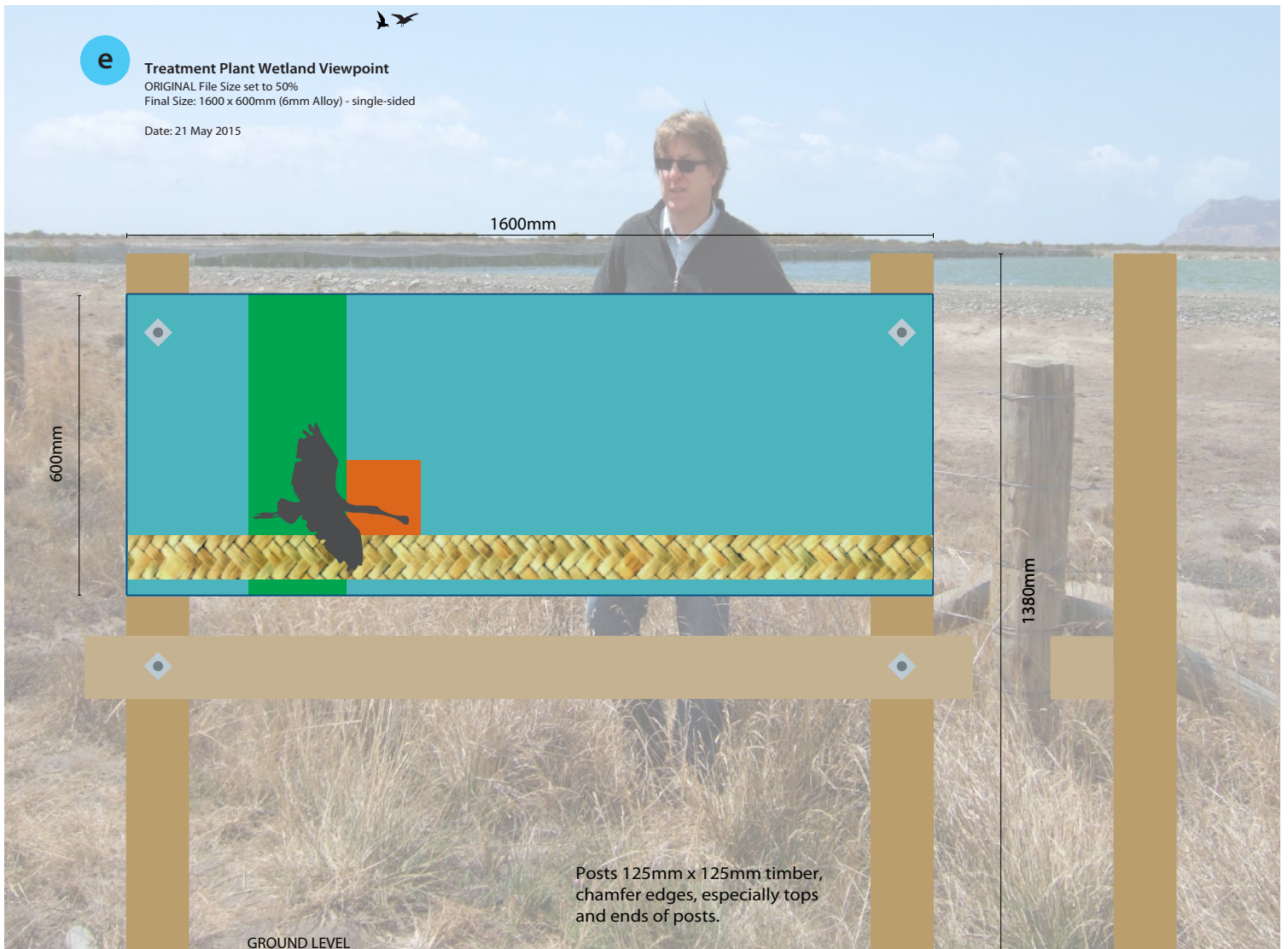
e

Treatment Plant Wetland Viewpoint

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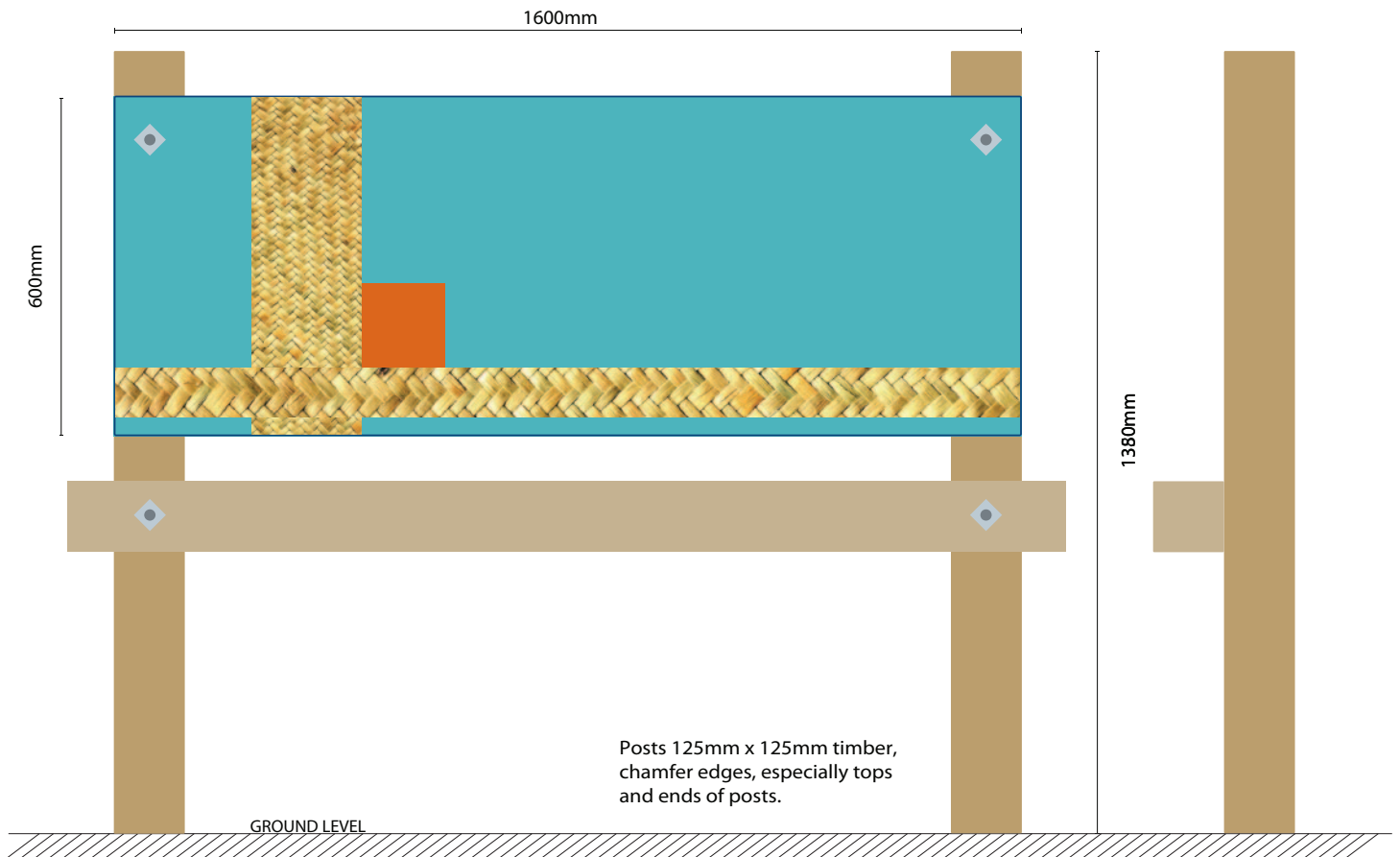
GROUND LEVEL

e

Sign Content: **Engineers Tasked with Maintaining Water Quality**

History / new developments / how the sewage treatment plant operates today / ponds and plant filters to maintain water quality. Feature bird : **Royal Spoonbill / Kōtuku ngutupapa** (water quality indicator).





Sign Content: **Hau Kainga** - to be scoped.

Iwi to make decisions regarding panel content and/or other forms of interpretation required for this area; possible environmental installation artwork based on traditional fish trapping methods and/or artwork relating to the tribal lands and the ahi kaa (fires of occupation). Or a special observational bird hide could be constructed as part of this project.

Interpretation discussions for this area can take into account the wider view including the WAIRAU BAR HERITAGE AREA Interpretation Concept Plan (Janet Bathgate Design) 14 February 2012 prepared for the Wairau Bar Heritage Group.