

ELEVATE TRAILS

SHANNON FARM TRAIL NETWORK

-

OVERVIEW

-

MAY 2020

Overview

We were contacted by Alex Bartrum of the Cromwell MTB club to assess the feasibility for a mountain bike trail network at Shannon Farm.

We investigated the property and discussed the trail requirements with Alex. We have visited a few properties with Alex and Shannon farm shows the most potential for a successful recreational trail network close to Cromwell.

Cromwell has very few specific mountain bike trails so there is high demand for a well designed and built network of this type. Mountain biking is extremely popular and we envisage these trails to be well used and appreciated.

Network Proposal

We are proposing a trail network featuring grade 3 (intermediate) to grade 5 (expert) trails. The under construction Lake Dunstan Trail from Cromwell to Clyde will cater for grade 1 and 2 riders where as riders looking for a true mountain bike experience will favour more challenging trails. The terrain and topography at Shannon Farm are more suited to grade 3-5 trails.

The network is designed to have a main climbing trail to a beautiful rocky crag viewpoint typical of the central otago area. This trail can be used by walkers and bikes. From here there will be an option to walk or ride further to the summit at 600m with great views to the valley floor. From here cyclists will have options of varying difficulties to descend all the way or part way back to the bottom.

The map below shows approximately 14km of trails but there is potential for further development.



Shannon Farm - Proposed Trail Network

Project:	Shannon Farm	Version:	1A
Client:	Cromtbc	Date:	May 2020
Page no:	1 of 1	Design:	Tom H
		Artwork:	Tom H

Trail descriptions

- Main uphill/walking track - Grade 3 - 3.4km car park to rock viewpoint - 4.5km to summit

Machine built easy climbing trail with mellow gradients at 1.2m width. Suitable for walkers or bikers. Up hill for bikes only, 2 way for walkers. Link option to create a short loop to the intermediate descent.

- Intermediate descent 1 - 900m summit to rock viewpoint
- Intermediate descent 2 - 2.8 km rock viewpoint to car park

Machine built intermediate flow trail with berms and rollers. Fun for everyone and likely the most popular trail in the network. 1.2m width. Link options to advanced and expert trails

- Advanced descent 1 - 2km - rock viewpoint to car park
- Advanced descent 2 - 1km - rock viewpoint to advanced trail hub
- Advanced descent 3 - 700m - Intermediate to advanced link

Mainly hand built trails with short machine built sections where required. Approximately 1m width. Some challenging features such as rock sections and jumps but no mandatory gaps or features.

- Expert descent 1 - 1km summit to advanced trail hub
- Expert descent 2 - 800m advance trail hub to car park

Hand built trails under 1m wide. These trails are for expert riders and will signed accordingly. They will have steep sections and various challenges. Any mandatory features will be well signed.

Trail Design and Construction

Elevate trail building have years of experience of designing and building trail networks of these types.

The trails will be designed and built following the NZCT cycle trail guidelines modified to fit in with central otago landscape.

Trails will scoped and flagged to the appropriate gradients using expert trail designers with a clinometer prior to construction.

Machine built trails (grade 3) will be constructed with a 1.7 ton excavator with a track width that ranges from only 1m to 1.2m which ensures a nice narrow track footprint. A hand crew will follow behind the excavator raking and compacting the trail and ensuring all drainage works correctly.

Hand built trails will be left natural where possible and sections that require benching will be done with hand tools such as pick axes, spades and rakes.

The trail corridor will be cleared by a qualified person with a chainsaw and any native vegetation will be cleared sympathetically with care to remove as little as possible. All cut vegetation will be disposed of out of site of the trail.

Any drainage will be managed by frequent grade reversal to stop large amounts of water to accumulate and shed from the trail at frequent intervals. Any major watercourses will have minimum 200m culverts with rock armoured sumps to manage sediment run off.

Signage

All trails will be signed clearly with details such as:

- Trail name
- Length
- Destination
- Difficulty grade

- Any features of note

There would also be map board at the base car park and each trail hub.

Trails will also be uploaded to Trailforks which is interactive MTB trail app.

Cost

Without a detailed scope of the proposed area it's hard to estimate costs to accurately.

From previous builds we would estimate an average cost per metre of approximately \$15.

Further scoping would be required to get a more accurate estimate.

We welcome any savings to be made with volunteer input.