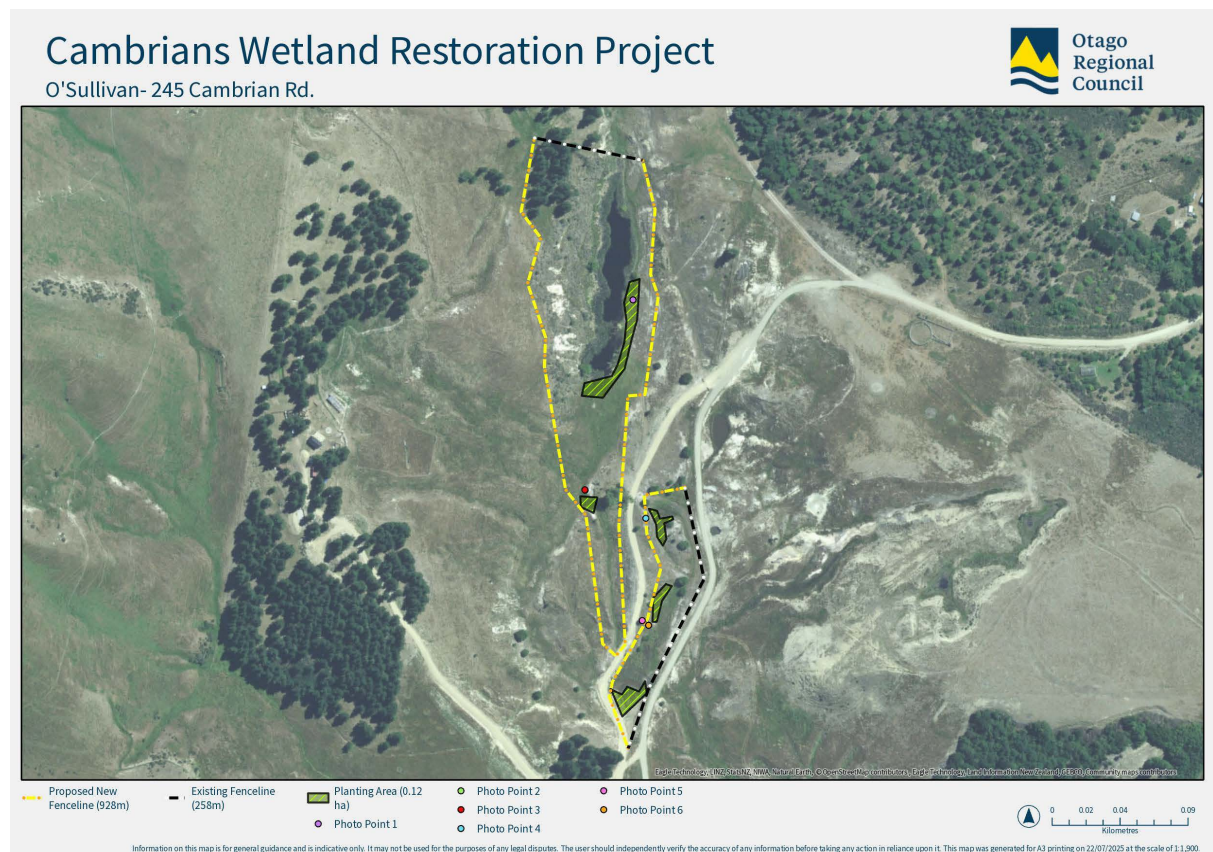


## Cambrians wetland

### Site Details

- **Landowner:** David and Chanelle O'Sullivan
- **Primary contact:**
- **Location**
  - Coordinates: Easting 1342417, Northing 5022756
  - Ecological District: Maniototo
  - Ecological Region: Central Otago
- **Wetland dimensions:** 1.2 ha.

### Site Map



*\*existing fence lines are indicative only*

### Current wetland condition photos

Photos taken November 25, 2025.



## Site Description

### General

Primary hydrosystem: Palustrine  
 Secondary hydrosystem: N/A  
 Primary wetland class: Marsh  
 Secondary wetland class: Shallow water  
 Primary wetland form: Gully  
 Secondary wetland form: N/A  
 Primary structural class: Grassland  
 Secondary structural class: Sedgeland

### Topography

Soils: Information retrieved from S-Map Online 27/03/2025.

**Soil sibling:** Gees\_1a.1. Very shallow, well drained, sand. Proportion: 100%

### Current Vegetation

The pond area of the wetland hosts a large extent of raupō (*Typha orientalis*) with sparse *Carex* plants along the front edge of the pond. On the back edge, below the steep bank are several





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large, mature *Carex secta* plants. Terrestrial vegetation surrounding the wetland comprises pasture grasses and herbs.

Since the current landowners have purchased the property, and grazing pressure reduced, native vegetation has begun to regenerate. Vegetation in the channel flowing from the pond includes indigenous and exotic vegetation, species include oval sedges, blue sweet grass and rautahi. Sharp spike sedge, soft rush, track rush and jointed rush are occasionally present. *Carex* species are present further down along the outflow.

## Special Features

This is a spring-fed pond which maintains its level year-round. This site was once a coal mine and evidence of this can be seen on the surrounding land.

## Nearby Natural Areas

Shepherds Creek is approximately 2 km from this wetland site and provides habitat for a range of indigenous species. Current Indigenous Ecosystem mapping shows Shepherds Creek as VS6: Matagouri, *Coprosma propinqua*, kowhai scrub (grey scrub) and a plant list available on the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network website lists many of the species found there. There is also a nearby area of CLF13: Matai, broadleaf forest adjacent to Cambrian Road (see the ORC Ecosystem and Habitat Mapping).

## Wildlife

The area of raupō in the pond potentially provides excellent Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) habitat. These birds are classed as Nationally Critical, and habitat degradation is attributed as the main cause for their decline.

## Site History

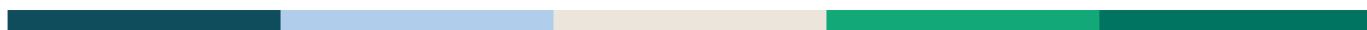
Rich history of coal and gold mining in this site. Was being heavily grazed until recently.

## Description of water flow and drainage

The pond is fed by several seepages in the adjacent hillside. Outflow passes behind all houses along Cambrian Road and feeds into Dunstan Creek.

## Current condition

The current condition of this wetland is somewhat degraded due to historical mining, and more recently, intensive grazing pressure. The regeneration of raupō that the landowners have observed is encouraging and provides excellent water quality and biodiversity benefits.





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## Enhancement Proposal

### Vision

To restore this wetland to a thriving, biodiverse site which provides habitat for a range of native species. The quality of water leaving the wetland is high and the downstream residents of Cambrians all benefit from the wetland enhancement.

### Objectives

Remove the few crack willows around the pond. Continue to control gorse and broom. Fence the site from stock. Plant the adjacent dry bank in native species and regenerate some wetted areas with wetland plants.

### Expected Outcomes

#### *Fencing & Planting*

Fencing will maintain stock exclusion from sensitive wetland areas, in particular the seepage area with extensive bryophyte communities along the southern margin of the pond. Total fence length to be constructed is 810m.

#### *Weed control*

Drill and fill crack willows around the pond. Continue spraying gorse and broom on the property. This will require on-going maintenance from the landowner but will ensure the wetland remains free of woody weeds.

#### *Sedimentation*

Planting of the dry bank will improve stability and mitigate an erosion and additional sediment inputs into the waterway.

## Total Investment

Fencing: \$20,955

Weeds: \$0

Planting: \$7,500 (*made up of \$6,500 of plants planted by Habitat Restoration Aotearoa and \$1,000 of supply only plants*)

Total: \$28,455

### Funding source

Fencing materials, installation & planting – Waiora Manuherekia

Fencing installation & weed maintenance – Landowner.

## Monitoring

Annual photopoint monitoring to be used to track changes in the wetland.

Annual SHMAK monitoring can be used to track improvements in ecosystem health.

Landowners should monitor for presence of Australasian bittern. Their booming call can be heard during dawn and twilight.