

CASE STUDY - Bay of Islands Track Upgrades

- PROJECT:** Mahinepua Peninsula (completed in February 2010)
Paihia Viewing Platform (completed in April 2010)
- DOC PERSONNEL:** Katrina Upperton - Capital Project Manager, Visitor Assets of Bay of Islands
- CONTRACTOR:** Backcountry Construction Ltd.

Track Description & Project Brief

Mahinepua Peninsula

Mahinepua Peninsula is located about 40 min drive north of Kerikeri and it is home for fourteen archaeological sites. The track travels about 3km, giving access to many sheltered bays and coastal views.

JakMatEnviro have been installed on Mahinepua Peninsula Track for 18 months – mainly on each landing after each flight of steps. Before the upgrade, the area was subject to intense erosion and it was shoulder high in places. The upgrade saw steps installed on the steeper parts of the track for safety and archaeological protection. The track attracts approximately 5,000 visitors every year (10,000 trips) and **JakMatEnviro** was mainly used for step platforms maintaining the gravel in place of hard wearing points and keeping the crown surface.

Before JakMats were installed
(Photo taken on Aug 2009)



After the completion
(Photo taken on May 2010)



After the completion
(Photo taken on Aug 2010)



JakMat

www.jakmat.co.nz

JakMatEnviro

The ground stabilisation mat
for track & utility area construction

Track Description & Project Brief

Paihia Viewing Platform

Paihia viewing platform is another popular site that gets at least 10,000 visitors (20,000 trips) per year. The site was heavily eroded 16 months ago before the upgrade and **JakMatEnviro** was laid on the track in April 2010. Capital Project Manager, Visitor Assets of Bay of Islands Katrina Upperton re-visited the track at Paihia this month and was impressed about how **JakMatEnviro** was holding and that there is no sign of surface cover being exposed. "You wouldn't even know it was there".

According to Katrina, **JakMatEnviro** performs better than other ground stabilisation product they have evaluated. What they like about **JakMatEnviro** is,

- Product strength: it is flexible and not brittle enabling power barrows to be rolled over
- Wall to wall interlinking system creates broad matrix
- The key between the sub-base and ground material being supplied, better material retention due to smaller holes in the base of mat

Backcountry Construction Ltd. was awarded the contracts for both Mahinepua Peninsula Track Upgrade and Paihia Viewing Platform Track Upgrade and they appreciate the fact that **JakMatEnviro** pack nice and compact for easy transport. "We like how easy (compact and relatively light) they are to fly".

Before the upgrade
(Photo taken on Feb 2010)



After the upgrade
(Photo taken on May 2010)



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Upcoming Projects...

Urupukapuka Island Upgrade of visitor facilities:

Backcountry Construction Ltd. is also working with DOC on the recent project of Urupukapuka Island Upgrade of visitor facilities. It is set to minimise the impacts on the busy areas as features have deteriorated over the past years and visitors are skidding over the sides. The upgrade is expected take 8-9 months.

JakMatEnviro is predominantly used for campsites and tracks that are narrower and rougher.

The objectives of **JakMatEnviro** on the tracks are:

- Raising the track on fragile sites and providing an artificial and durable surface
- Conserving the fabric of archaeological features beneath, while providing a hard wearing surface
- Prevent erosion and dipping on wear points: gates, stile crossings, viewing platforms, step landings
- Hold on to expensive surface coatings like metal by binding within the cell structure



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