

Mount Pleasant protective bund work progresses well

Over the last nine months, the Maffey's Road hill behind McCormacks Bay Road has been buzzing with activity as SCIRT's Fulton Hogan team has been carrying out mass movement remediation work on behalf of the Christchurch City Council.

Bund construction well advanced

Work has been progressing well and is expected to be completed in July. The work involves constructing a bund, which at its highest point will reach 15 metres up the slope, to provide protection from a mass movement hazard such as slope failure risk for the McCormacks Bay Road properties downslope from the bund.

The bund is made of wire baskets which are filled with gravel and soil with coconut matting on the external face.



SCIRT is clearing the site so construction of the bund can begin

What is a bund?

A bund is an embankment or a dike made of earth or other materials designed to restrict the movement of water, soil or rocks.

Protection for the crew

Before construction of the bund could begin, the risk of rock falls prompted the team to come up with an award-winning safety initiative.

The solution was a progressive fall protection system, protecting the workers while the bund continues to grow. As each layer of the bund is constructed, the fall protection system is extended upward so that the workers are always protected.



The fall protection system in place

Project Delivery Manager Khris Dore said, "Knowing that the fall protection system is keeping our crew safe is great. Our number one priority is making sure that everyone gets home each night. We have had no injuries on our site and the fall protection system provides added safety security."

SCIRT safety award

The team was recognised for its efforts and innovation when they were 'highly commended' at the 2016 SCIRT Bill Perry Safety Awards earlier this month. The award was developed as a way of keeping safety central to SCIRT's work. Former SCIRT board member and chief executive of Fulton Hogan, Bill Perry, was instrumental in developing a zero harm culture at SCIRT. He passed away suddenly in 2011. The award recognises outstanding safety initiatives which have the potential to impact across SCIRT or the wider industry.



One of the caves in the hillside

With two caves located within the site, the area was considered a high archaeological risk. During the earthworks and site clearance phase of the project, archaeologist Teri Anderson from Underground Overground Archaeology and cultural monitor Hoana Williams from Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga were present to monitor for any archaeological finds. There were no significant discoveries during the site clearance meaning construction work continued as normal.



The construction site is just behind the fence of the McCormacks Bay residents

Bund work attract residents' interest

With neighbours just over the fence, positive relationships with residents were of utmost importance.

"The residents have been more than accommodating," Khris Dore said.

"We are basically on their back door step and it's great to have them come out for regular chats to discuss the progress and what stage we are at."

Residents have been supportive and eager to be involved in this essential project. They have attended site barbeques to celebrate milestone achievements and keep in regular contact with the crew.

The finished product will provide the neighbourhood with protection from slope stability issues. Christchurch City Council landscaping will follow after construction, leaving behind an asset that provides protection for the residents and blends into its surrounding landscape.