

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL  
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

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**2021 District Plan Item No.**

**HH112**

**HERITAGE ITEM NAME**

Hassall's Ford footbridge [Butcher's footbridge]

**ADDRESS**

Kaiapoi River, near Butchers Road, Kaiapoi

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(www)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.**  
(at time of assessment)

n / a

**HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY**

n / a

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**VALUATION NUMBER**

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**

1890

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER**

RM Wright, District Surveyor to Eyreton Road Board,  
designer; Messrs Peate & Norrie, contractors

**STYLE**

Pile & suspension footbridge

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Wire rope footbridge with timber decking and piles. Three trussed arches over deck tension wire ropes. Wire mesh sides.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Wire rope and mesh, timber.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Refurbished (2001).

**SETTING**

The footbridge spans the Kaiapoi River to the east of Butchers Road and to the west of the town centre. Beyond Butchers Road to the west the setting is rural, to the north and east there is a new residential subdivision. Street names in the latter reference the historic context of the locale. The scheduled setting includes the bridge approaches, as well as the bridge itself.

## **HISTORY**

The Eyreton Road Board called tenders for a footbridge at Hassall's Ford in June 1890; the ford was known by that name by 1875, if not earlier. Plans and specifications were available to be viewed at the board's Ohoka office. The Eyreton Road Board had been created in January 1870. It met initially in Eyreton and then relocated to Kaiapoi in c.1877 before erecting its own offices in Ohoka in mid-1879; the village having been chosen for its central location. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Ohoka was the base for the Mandeville and Rangiora River Board and the Eyreton and West Eyreton Road Boards; the district then had a population of c.430. The road board was superseded by the Eyre County Council in April 1912, the latter taking over the assets of the former at that time. The ford beside which the footbridge was built was known variously as Durell's, Hassall's and Butcher's after local land owners. The bridge was closed in 2000 and reopened in July 2001 after it had been refurbished by the Kaiapoi Promotion Association. It was not until 2017 that a road bridge across the river at Butcher's Ford was built; it was located on the upstream side of the ford, which was on the upstream side of the footbridge.

## **HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hassall's Ford footbridge has historic significance for its association with the colonial development of Kaiapoi and the provision of transport infrastructure in the district by the local road board.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hassall's Ford footbridge has cultural significance as a place of community identity and historic continuity. It is valued by the community as a historic feature and is mapped as a historical landmark on Google Maps.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hassall's Ford footbridge has aesthetic significance for its pile and suspension design. Robert Wright was the long-serving clerk and District Surveyor to the Eyreton Road Board with responsibility for the plans and specifications of the board's bridges. Wright (1840-1917) was born in England and immigrated to New Zealand in 1852. He retired in 1916 after 47 years of service to the Eyreton and West Eyreton Road Boards and the Eyre County Council.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hassall's Ford footbridge has technological value as a late Victorian pile and suspension bridge. John Norrie was a Kaiapoi carpenter.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hassall's Ford footbridge has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship to other Kaiapoi bridges, including the Kaiapoi footbridge (H033, 1873-74) in the town centre and the Mafeking footbridge (1900) beyond the northern terminus of Raven Quay.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the footbridge pre-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to both the bridge's construction and the river's historic use and development.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hassall's Ford footbridge [Butcher's Ford footbridge] has overall heritage significance to Kaiapoi and to Waimakariri district as a whole. The bridge has historic significance as an item of Kaiapoi's transport infrastructure erected by the Eyreton Road Board and cultural

significance as a place of community identity and historic continuity. The Hassall's Ford footbridge has aesthetic significance for its design by Robert Wright and technological value for its Victorian bridge construction. The Hassall's Ford footbridge has contextual significance as a local landmark and its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the bridge's construction and the historic use and development of the Kaiapoi River.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Press* 21 July 1874, p. 3; 20 May 1882, p. 6; 10 January 1885, p. 3; 6 October 1887, p. 6; 22 July 1890, p. 3; 26 November 1890, p. 6; 4 March 1891, p. 6; 15 October 1894, p. 6; 1 April 1916, p. 2; 17 July 1919, p. 5; 6 January 1923, p. 6; 25 May 1923, p. 6; 12 November 1929, p. 15; 14 November 1929, p. 11; 16 November 1938, p. 2.
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REPORT COMPLETED

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Extent of scheduling, encompassing the bridge and its approaches, Butchers Road, Kaiapoi River.