



Northland Rail Programme

March/April 2024

Kia ora

Our work repairing the North Auckland Line (NAL) is going well, with the intention to reopen to freight trains in July.

There were more than 200 damage sites along the NAL between Swanson and Whangārei, including overslips, slumps, washouts and underslips, following last year's late January weather event. Many of these were further damaged during Cyclone Gabrielle.

Repairs have now been completed on about 80 per cent of the minor to moderate damage sites. We've also completed repairs on about a quarter of the 36 major damage sites, with work on the rest well underway.

We expect to complete the vast majority

of the physical repair work in the next few months, and will then be able to focus on re-commissioning the track. Some tidy up work will continue around the tracks into July.

Before heavy freight trains can run on the NAL there is a stringent process to go through. This includes inspecting and testing track, including a detailed assessment of track geometry, as well as bridges, signals and other infrastructure.

Given the line has been closed for so long and these checks have to be done along 180km of rail line, this process will take time. But it has to be done to ensure safety.

Finally, I'd like to give a special thanks to some of the Titan Rail team, who are contracting for us. Last month, following a car crash in Riverside Drive,

Whangārei, they pulled over in their ute and got out, brooms in hand, to sweep car parts off the road. They went above and beyond, and earned thanks for their help from the local police. It's a great show of community spirit.

If you have any questions about the work we're doing, please contact us at: northlandrail@kiwirail.co.nz

Eric Hennephof

Northland Rail Upgrade Programme Director



The inscribed grout slab

Rail history uncovered

At a minor-moderate slip repair site north of Topuni, our teams found a slab of grout in the grass at the side of the track. It appears to date from 1972 and has the names of members of a track crew inscribed on it.

Grout was historically pumped into cracks under the tracks.

Rail has been a part of New Zealand for more than 150 years. We cordoned it off while working around it, and have left the slab of grout in situ as a tribute to those who helped build the network into what it is today.



Sleeper replacement and track improvement work going on in the Whangārei Rail Yard

Progress repairing the North Auckland Line

Work is completed repairing more than 50 kilometres of line north of Swanson (to near Makarau), including repairs to significant washouts in north Auckland.

The massive Tahekerua slip, where 35,000 cubic metres of earth fell close to 400 metres across the road and rail line, was completed in September. Two other large slips in the area were also remediated.

Work has also been completed on 81 minor - moderate damage sites along the line and is continuing on the remaining 20 sites.

Of the 36 major damage sites, work on 10 of them has now been completed. Of the 26 remaining major sites, geotechnical investigations have been completed, contractors appointed and preferred remediation design options chosen. Enabling works, including relocation of wildlife, erosion and

sediment control measures, vegetation clearance, and track removal has also been completed. See the map below for a breakdown of the major damage sites.

We continue to engage with ecologists, erosion/sediment control specialists and the Department of Conservation, to ensure native flora and fauna is protected as we progress repairs.

As mentioned previously, we have also completed the upgrade of the track north of Whangārei, to Kauri, so it can take heavier trains. And we have almost completed changes at our Whangārei Rail Yard. These are predominantly track layout improvements, which will support carrying greater freight volumes, and drainage improvements to better manage flood risks at the yard.



Replacing a culvert with a 22m long, 1.6m diameter pipe and rebuilding embankments south of Wellsford



An embankment above the track which has been cleared, stabilised and hydroseeded near Topuni

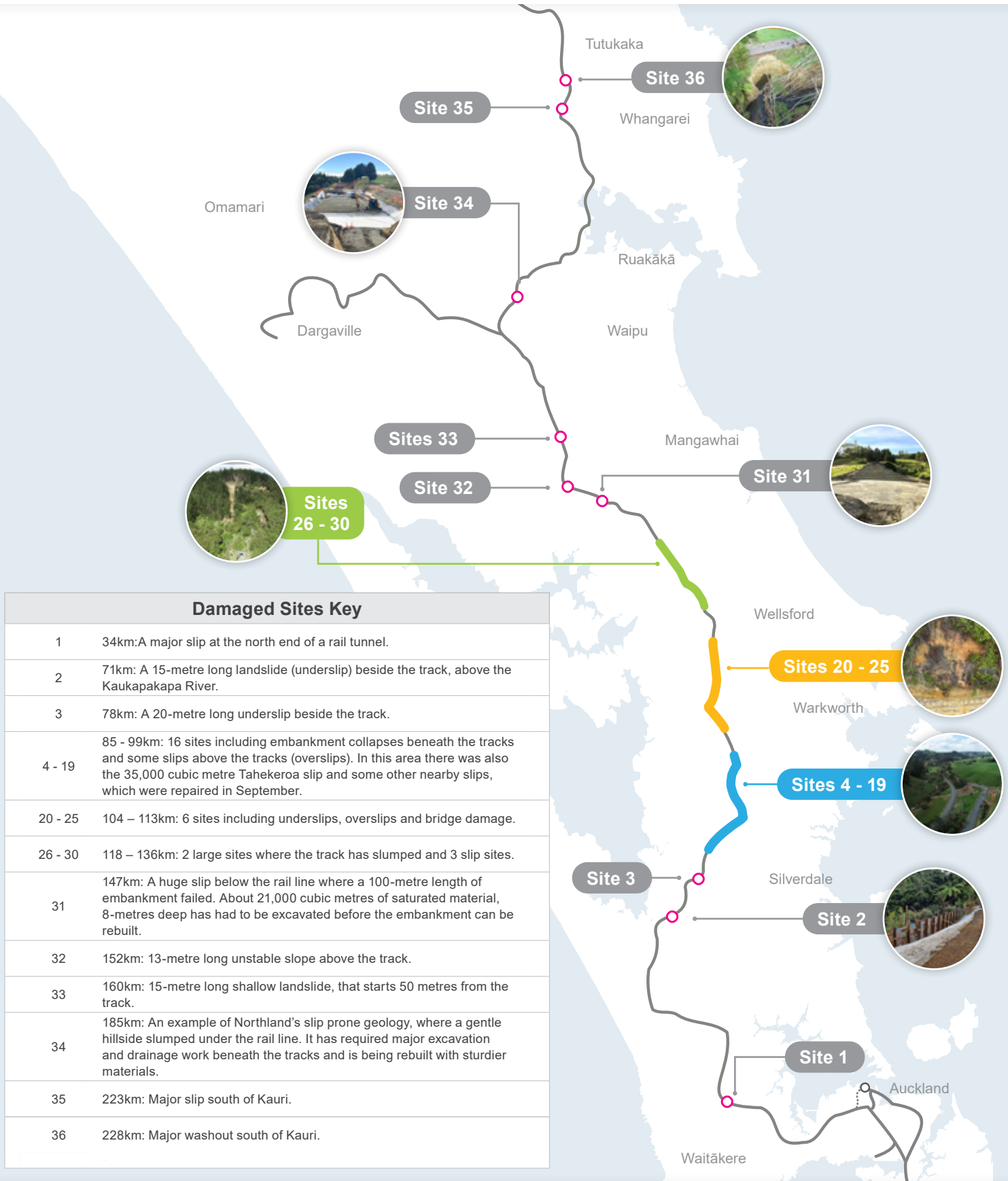


Piles, which are now filled with concrete, being installed to stabilise a steep embankment near Kaiwaka



Northland Major Damage Sites

Works Map 2023-2024



If you have any queries, please us contact by email at northlandrail@kiwirail.co.nz.

www.kiwirail.co.nz

