

Updated guidelines for determining areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna in the Waikato region.

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UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND HABITATS OF INDIGENOUS FAUNA IN THE WAIKATO REGION



 providing
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environments



**UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT INDIGENOUS
VEGETATION AND HABITATS OF INDIGENOUS
FAUNA IN THE WAIKATO REGION**

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Reviewed and approved for release by:



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Abstract

Waikato Regional Council has a strategic objective to identify important areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna within the Waikato Region for biodiversity management to meet the requirements of Section 6c of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) (New Zealand Government 1991). Identification of Significant Natural Areas (SNAs)¹ is the logical first step. This report provides guidelines for ecologists, planning agencies, and community groups to interpret the revised significance criteria present in the 2016 Waikato Regional Policy Statement. This report also aligns the interpretation of the significance criteria with the exposure draft of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (Ministry for the Environment, 2022) where possible². Guidance is also provided on assessing the relative significance of sites (International, National, Regional, or Local) to prioritise management once an area has been identified as being significant. Useful definitions and references are provided.

¹ SNA is the acronym for Significant Natural Areas. Significant Natural Areas is a short term for areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna as defined in Section 6c of the Resource Management Act.

² As a draft, the National Policy Statement on indigenous biodiversity is likely to change in the future. To ensure national guidelines on significant indigenous biodiversity are followed, users should refer to the most recent publications available at the time of an assessment.

1 Introduction

Section 6c of the Resource Management Act 1991 ('the Act') requires those enacting it to provide for, as a matter of national importance, the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats for indigenous fauna (New Zealand Government 1991). Regional Councils are also required, under Section 30(1)(ga) of the Act, to establish, implement, and review objectives, policies, and methods for maintaining indigenous biological diversity in their region. However, the Act does not prescribe how to assess significance, nor does the Act require differential protection of sites based on the degree of relative significance; however assigning a level of significance can help prioritise resource allocation. Chapter 11 of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement provides policy direction for maintaining, enhancing, and avoiding adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity, and provides policy relating to the identification and protection of areas of significant indigenous biodiversity. Territorial authorities and the Waikato Regional Plan must give effect to the Waikato Regional Policy statement.

As part of the policy for identifying and protecting significant indigenous biodiversity, criteria to assess the significance of vegetation and habitats within the Waikato Region were developed by Waikato Regional Council in 2002 and were added to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement operative at that time (Environment Waikato 2002). At that time, a guidelines document for interpretation of the significance criteria was also developed (Environment Waikato and Wildland Consultants 2002). Since 2002, the significance criteria within the Regional Policy Statement have been updated, but this was not reflected in any updated guidelines for interpretation of those criteria. This report provides updated guidelines for interpretation of the significance criteria present in the 2016 Waikato Regional Policy Statement and aligns the interpretation of the significance criteria with the exposure draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (Ministry for the Environment, 2022)³, where possible. The draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity gives guidance on relevant ecological principles and definitions which can be contentious in relation to the assessment of significant natural areas; this guidance has been reproduced in Appendix 2 to provide clarity for users of this guide. Input from an experienced and suitably qualified ecologist(s) is recommended to ensure the evaluation of significance and relative importance of an area follows sound ecological practice.

This report provides a process for three potential options relating to an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna:

- Assessment of WHETHER an area of indigenous vegetation or indigenous fauna habitat (a site) is significant (the basic requirement of the Act).
- Outlining WHY a site is significant.
- Determining HOW significant a site is.

Each successive option requires completion of the previous steps.

Unless a site has been surveyed recently (within 5-10 years of the assessment), a field visit is recommended to accurately apply assessment criteria and to determine whether it contains significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat for indigenous fauna. There are 11 criteria (see Table 1 below) that were developed for the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, many of which have been tested by appeals to the Environment Court or through negotiation at a District Plan appeals level. A site is considered to be significant if one or more criterion is triggered in Table 1, unless the only criterion met is Criterion 1, in which case one of the other

³ As a draft, the National Policy Statement on indigenous biodiversity is likely to change in the future. To ensure national guidelines on significant indigenous biodiversity are followed, users should refer to the most recent publications available at the time of an assessment.

criteria must also be met for a protected site to be significant. If none of the criteria in Table 1 are assessed as being met at the time of the assessment, the site should be labelled as 'Not Presently Significant'. Areas of vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna are not static in the environment; they will change with natural processes, climatic changes, and as a result of active management. Consequently, the ecological values of a site can change over time and a site which may previously have been assessed as Not Presently Significant may be assessed as Significant or of Indeterminate Significance at a later date.

Note: to classify a site as “Not Presently Significant” each criterion must have been tested and shown to be not applicable.

If you wish to develop a list or schedule of significant sites within a wider area, you can apply the criteria to all sites for which adequate information is available. Developing comprehensive schedules or lists of significant sites can require significant resources and it is difficult to ensure that the coverage is comprehensive. However, such lists can be very valuable because they also provide detailed information that can be used to underpin the allocation of resources for active management and associated plan provisions. Lists of terrestrial and wetland habitats which meet, or are likely to meet the Waikato Regional Policy Statement criteria have been compiled for nine of the ten Districts within the Waikato Region (see Section 5 for the titles of publications for districts where schedules have been compiled). Lists of geothermal, lake, and stream habitats which meet, or are likely to meet the Waikato Regional Policy Statement criteria have also been compiled (also see Section 5), and an assessment of significant areas within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) is currently being prepared. These lists provide a good starting point for finding information on a site, but should not be used as the final determination of whether a site is significant or not presently significant. The reports of the desktop assessments undertaken for the Waikato Regional Council are available on the Waikato Regional Council website, however some local body authorities have undertaken additional work since the initial desktop assessments, so District Plans for the relevant district should also be consulted. All eleven of the criteria presented below can be used to assess sites located within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA), however a CMA site should also be assessed against the criteria within Policy 11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2010) before determining whether a coastal site is significant or not presently significant.

Sites for which adequate information is not available should be considered to be potentially significant until proven otherwise. Alternatively, sites can be assessed on an “as required” basis. Where adequate information is not available, and resources for undertaking surveys to bolster existing information are lacking, it can be useful to provide a confidence rating (Low, Medium, High) for future users of the information. A guideline for determining level of confidence in the assessment is provided in Appendix 4.

Note: This is a guidelines document, not Council policy. We welcome feedback and suggestions. Please phone 0800 800 401 and ask to speak to one of the biodiversity team.

2 Limitations of data

Significant changes in national and regional policy have occurred since the first guidelines for significant natural area assessments for the Waikato Region were published in 2002. There are now national level policy statements for a wide range of ecosystem and land management types, most of which have only become operative since 2019 at the earliest. Consequently, regional councils throughout the country are required to align their regional policies and objectives with the new national level policy documents. However, due to the large volume of new national policy documents that were published within a short timeframe, there has not yet been sufficient time for all regional level policies and guidelines to be updated accordingly. Additionally, some national policy documents are still in draft form and are not yet operative.

The guidelines given below therefore reflect the current national policy guidelines as at February 2023 and align with draft policy documents where possible. Both the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) and the updated Waikato Coastal Policy are expected to be published in 2023. To ensure national and regional guidelines on significant indigenous biodiversity and significant coastal areas are followed, users should refer to the most recent publications available at the time of an assessment.

3 Determine what you need to do

It is important to consider the type and level of information needed and for what purposes the assessment is required.

What type and level of information do you require?	What is the information required for?
Determine if a site is ecologically significant, for any reason.	<p>You <i>might want to do this</i> if you are attempting to create a map or schedule of sites that are considered to be significant and worthy of protection.</p> <p>It is advised that you start with the easiest criteria first, as it may not be necessary to apply all criteria once one is found to be applicable.</p>
Assess all of the ecological values for which a site may be significant.	<p>You <i>will need to do this</i> if an activity is planned that may adversely affect a site to ensure that the characteristics which make a site significant are protected from adverse effects. For example, a resource consent application to clear vegetation or divert water. The Waikato Regional policy statement requires that the characteristics that make a site significant are protected from adverse effects rather than the geographic site only.</p> <p>You <i>might want to do this</i> if you have responsibility for active management of a site. Knowing all the values for which a site is significant will enable you to determine the management needs, likely costs, and to establish priorities.</p>
Find out how significant a site is. That is, of international, national, regional, or local significance.	<p>You <i>might want to do this</i> if you are allocating resources between a number of sites.</p> <p>Sites that are assigned a lower level of significance (e.g. local) are still considered to be significant for the purposes of Policy 11.2 of the operative Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS), and in relevant sections of any other policy documents that cannot be inconsistent with the RPS such as district plans.</p>

4 Application of significance criteria

Assessment of the 11 criteria set out in Table 1 below will enable the assessment of whether a site is significant, the reasons why a site is significant, and a relative level of significance (note that Table 2 would also need to be completed to assign a measure of relative significance).

4.1 Step 1: Is a site significant?

1. First complete the top of Table 1. Identify the site by providing a site name, land tenure/owner, location, area (hectares), ecological district name, and a brief general description.
2. To assist you in determining whether a site is 'Significant' or 'Not Presently Significant', assess each of the criterion listed in **Column A**. **Column B** contains further information and relevant definitions, while **Column C** provides likely sources of information.
3. Provide responses ("Yes", "No", "Not Sure") in **Column D**.
4. If you answer yes to **one or more** of the criteria, then a site is significant⁴ in terms of the Waikato Regional Policy Statement criteria. (Unless the only criterion met is Criterion 1, in which case one of the other criteria must also be met for a protected site to be significant.)
5. If you only wish to know whether a site is significant, apply Table 1 only until a "Yes" response is triggered in **Column D**. This will help save cost and effort.
6. Complete **Column E** to justify your decision.
7. The criteria have been grouped, but are listed roughly in order of ease of access to information. They are not presented in any order of importance.
8. The assistance of a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist/biologist should be sought when undertaking assessment of the criteria. The opinion of an ecologist is not necessarily the final answer, but may be used, with appropriate evidence, to argue for or against a site being classified as significant.
9. If you answer "No" for all of the criteria in Table 1 then a site is deemed "**Not presently significant**". To be confident of this assessment you must seek further information to eliminate all "Not sure" responses. Note that any interest in the use or development of a site should not rely on an old assessment that determined that a site was *not presently significant*. Significance status can change, even over a few years, on the basis of change in the environment or new information. A site should be resurveyed (a site inspection) and reassessed if it is still an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna.
10. If you think that a site is likely to meet one or more of the criteria in Table 1 but there is insufficient evidence to respond Yes or No with certainty, then the site is deemed to be "Likely to be significant" and will require field survey to gather further information, unless one of the other criteria has been assessed as being met.
11. If you are unsure about all criteria for a site, the site should be assessed as being of Indeterminate significance. Field survey will be required to gather further information to assess whether the site meets, or does not meet, any of the criteria.

⁴ Note however, that a site's significance may be determined ultimately by a decision-making body based on technical evidence from relevant specialists (usually qualified and experienced ecologists).

4.3 Step 2: Optional: Why is a site significant?

1. Complete **Column D** in **Table 1**. If you wish to know why your site is significant **assess all of the criteria**, rather than stopping the assessment at the first “Yes” response in Column D.
2. Note that the number of “Yes” responses in **Column D** is not necessarily an indication of a greater or lesser degree of significance, as one feature may carry particular weight (e.g. an extremely rare or unusual feature).

4.4 Step 3: Optional: How significant is a site?

1. If you wish to know how significant a site is, complete **Column E** in Table 1 for all criteria assigned a “Yes” response.
2. Use the responses in **Column E** of Table 1 to help assess the additional questions in Table 2. Complete Table 2 if you want to determine the level of significance (international, national, regional, local).
3. Table 2 contains detailed information to assist in your assessment. Table 3 is a summarised version of Table 2. You can use it to double-check your results in Table 2, or once familiar with the process, as an alternative to Table 2.

Table 1: Criteria for the assessment of significance and reasons for why a site is significant

Site Name:

Area (ha):

Ecological District:

Land Tenure:

Location (grid reference and general location):

General Description:

A. Criteria ⁵	B. Definitions and Further Information ⁵	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
PREVIOUSLY ASSESSED SITE				
<p>1 It is indigenous vegetation or habitat that is currently, or is recommended to be, set aside by statute or covenant or by the Nature Heritage Fund, Ngā Whenua Rāhui committees, or the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Board of Directors specifically for the protection of biodiversity, and meets at least one of Criteria 2-11.</p>	<p>This may include sites protected under the Conservation Act, Resource Management Act, or with QEII National Trust, Ngā Whenua Rāhui, or Nature Heritage Fund.</p> <p>Some areas may be protected for reasons other than biodiversity protection. If unsure, check the reasoning for protection with the authority responsible for the gazetting of the site.</p>	<p>Department of Conservation Waikato Regional Council Ngā Whenua Rāhui QEII National Trust Nature Heritage Fund Territorial Authority (District or City council).</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>What type of legally protected area is it? e.g. Scenic Reserve, National Park, QEII Covenant.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

⁵ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

A. Criteria ⁶	B. Definitions and Further Information ⁶	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
ECOLOGICAL VALUES				
2 In the Coastal Marine Area , it is indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna that has been reduced in extent or degraded due to historic or present anthropogenic activity to a level where the ecological sustainability of the ecosystem is threatened. ^{7,8}	See footnote 8.	Waikato Regional Council Coastal Plan (in preparation) ⁸	Y / N / NS	

⁶ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

⁷ In addition to this criterion, any potential SNA identified within the Coastal Marine Area should be assessed against all eleven criteria within this guidance document **AND** Policy 11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

⁸ Mapping of significant indigenous biodiversity areas within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) will be identified by the proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan. Notification of the revised Coastal Plan is anticipated in 2023, following which guidance and information within the plan should also be consulted when assessing areas in the CMA.

A. Criteria ⁹	B. Definitions and Further Information ⁹	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
<p>3 It is vegetation or habitat that is currently habitat for indigenous species or associations of indigenous species that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classified as threatened or at risk, or Endemic to the Waikato Region, or At the limit of their natural range. 	<p>Species that are threatened with extinction are indigenous species that have been evaluated and placed within any of the 'Threatened' or 'At Risk' categories within the New Zealand Threat Classification System¹⁰.</p> <p>Care should be taken when assessing this criterion for species which are otherwise common in the wider landscape/ecological region/district but which are listed as Threatened or At Risk as a precautionary measure due to potential risk factors e.g. common Myrtaceae species which are now classified as Threatened or At Risk due to the threat posed by Myrtle rust. In these instances, professional ecological judgment should be used.</p> <p>With respect to fauna habitat, professional ecological judgement should be used when assessing significance, particularly when evaluating relative significance of occasional site use by highly mobile fauna.</p> <p>Where there is doubt, refer to the guidelines on rarity and distinctiveness given in Appendix 2.</p>	<p>Consultant Ecologist</p> <p>Crown Research Institute, e.g. Landcare Research or National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>University of Waikato</p> <p>Published reports or maps</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>List the subject species and their threat category, e.g. Threatened-Nationally Critical, At Risk-Declining, At Risk-Naturally Uncommon, regionally uncommon.</p> <p>List source of information.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>List any Threatened or At Risk species that use the site which are international migrants.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>List any regionally endemic species present.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>List any species at the limits of their natural range.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

⁹ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

¹⁰ When listing Threatened, At Risk, or Data deficient species for this criterion, please ensure the most up-to-date threat classification publications are used for the relevant organism grouping.

A. Criteria ¹¹	B. Definitions and Further Information ¹¹	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
<p>4 It is indigenous vegetation, habitat, or an ecosystem type that is under-represented (20% or less of its known or likely original extent remaining) in an Ecological District, Ecological Region, or nationally.</p>	<p>Maps of ecological regions and districts are available from Department of Conservation or Waikato Regional Council.</p> <p>A type of indigenous vegetation or habitat could refer to a broad unit such as podocarp/tawa forest, or a more detailed classification and mapping unit such as harakeke (<i>Phormium tenax</i>) flaxland.</p> <p>Definitions and examples of vegetation/habitat structural classes and vegetation types are provided in Atkinson (1985). See Section 5 for other publications which provide examples of vegetation types for various habitats.</p> <p>Comparison with known or likely original extent may require analysis (e.g. using a Geographic Information System) of current extent and previous extent. As a starting point, use the vegetation/habitat type analysis provided in Appendix 1 of this document which is based on the potential historic ecosystems of New Zealand by Singers and Rogers (2014)¹².</p> <p>If protected natural area programme reports (PNAP survey reports) are available for your area, these will provide a more detailed, comprehensive analysis of vegetation types.</p>	<p>Consultant Ecologist</p> <p>Crown Research Institute, e.g. Landcare Research or National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>Published reports or maps</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>List under-represented vegetation/habitat type(s) and state whether they are under-represented at a national, regional, or ecological district scale?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>List sources of information for determining whether an ecosystem/vegetation type is under-represented.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

¹¹ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

¹² Care should be taken when using this data set as some vegetation and habitat types within some parts of the Waikato Region (coastal and northern Waikato) are not well delineated or accurately described by the methodology used for this data set. To avoid doubt, multiple publications or data sets should be utilised to ensure an accurate assessment of this criterion for any given site.

A. Criteria ¹³	B. Definitions and Further Information ¹³	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
<p>5 It is indigenous vegetation or habitat that is, and prior to human settlement was, nationally uncommon, such as geothermal, Chenier plain, or karst ecosystems, hydrothermal vents or cold seeps.</p>	<p>Geothermal habitats can include geysers, springs, sinter terraces, and hydro-thermally altered soils. They provide habitat for geothermally-influenced vegetation, and heat-tolerant bacteria.</p> <p>A Chenier plain is a plain comprising shell ridges with infilled muds and other sediment between the ridges. An extensive area at Miranda provides habitat for international wader migrants.</p> <p>Karst ecosystems are limestone systems, providing habitat for specialist limestone plants (e.g. <i>Asplenium cimmeriorum</i>, <i>Gymnostomum calcereum</i>) and fauna (e.g. cave wētā).</p> <p>Note that these three examples are not a comprehensive list of nationally uncommon vegetation or habitat types. Other nationally uncommon and/or historically rare ecosystems are defined in Williams <i>et al.</i> (2007) and Holdaway <i>et al.</i> (2012).</p> <p>Where there is doubt, refer to the guidelines on rarity and distinctiveness given in Appendix 2.</p>	<p>Consultant Ecologist</p> <p>Crown Research Institute, e.g. Landcare Research or National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>Type of feature:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Area: _____</p> <p>Condition:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

¹³ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

A. Criteria ¹³	B. Definitions and Further Information ¹⁴	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
<p>6 It is wetland habitat for indigenous plant communities and/or indigenous fauna communities (excluding exotic rush/pasture communities) that has not been created and subsequently maintained for or in connection with:</p> <p>(a) waste treatment; or</p> <p>(b) wastewater renovation; or</p> <p>(c) hydroelectric power lakes (excluding Lake Taupō); or</p> <p>(d) water storage for irrigation; or</p> <p>(e) water supply storage; unless in those instances they meet the criteria in Whaley <i>et al.</i> (1995).</p>	<p>Wetlands have been severely depleted nationwide, and are recognised as a nationally rare habitat type.</p> <p>Wetlands may have fluctuating water levels and the edge of a wetland may be difficult to define but will generally be where wetland plant species (e.g. raupō) are replaced with dryland species (e.g. kānuka); soil analysis may be required to accurately delineate wetland boundaries in some instances (see Fraser <i>et al.</i> 2018). Note that mānuka can occur in wetland and dryland habitats.</p> <p>The definition of wetlands also includes coastal wetlands, e.g. ephemeral wetlands associated with sand dunes, mangroves, and estuaries.</p> <p>See Section 5 for publications which provide good information on wetland delineation.</p> <p>All artificially-created wetlands listed in Criterion 6a-e should <u>also</u> be evaluated using the criteria in Whaley <i>et al.</i> (1995), as well as criteria 1-5 and 7-11 in Table 1. The significance criteria from Whaley <i>et al.</i> (1995) are reproduced in Appendix 3.</p>	<p>Consultant Ecologist</p> <p>Crown Research Institute, e.g. Landcare Research or National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>Published reports or maps</p> <p>Copies of Whaley <i>et al.</i> (1995) can be obtained from Waikato Regional Council</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>Type of wetland habitats/indigenous communities present:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Origins of wetland (natural, artificial):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>If the wetland was constructed, or created artificially (e.g. ponding following road construction) what was the purpose for which it was created (if known):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Area (ha): _____</p>

¹⁴ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

A. Criteria ¹⁵	B. Definitions and Further Information ¹⁵	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
<p>7. It is an area of indigenous vegetation or naturally occurring habitat that is large relative to other examples in the Waikato Region of similar habitat types, and which contains all or almost all indigenous species typical of that habitat type.</p> <p>Note that this criterion is not intended to select the largest example only in the Waikato Region of any habitat type.</p>	<p>This criterion is not intended to select the largest single example of a habitat type in the Waikato Region.</p> <p>Refer to vegetation maps (e.g. Leathwick <i>et al.</i> 1995, Singers and Rogers 2014), natural area inventories, DOC compilations of Sites of Special Wildlife Importance (SSWI), DOC Conservation Management Strategies for Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wanganui, Auckland, and Tongariro/ Taupō Conservancies, Protected Natural Area Programme survey reports to help determine the species that are typical of each habitat type and to determine which other parts of the Waikato Region have similar habitat, and the size of those examples.</p> <p>Where there is doubt, refer to the representativeness, and diversity and pattern guidelines given in Appendix 2.</p>	<p>Consultant Ecologist</p> <p>Crown Research Institute, e.g. Landcare Research or National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>Published reports or maps</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>Broad habitat types present:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Area (ha)</p> <p>Notable flora or fauna:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>How does the size compare with other similar habitat types in the Region? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Would you consider this to be among the best examples of its type nationally (Y/N), in the Waikato Region (Y/N), or in a particular ecological region/ district (Y/N)? Provide justification.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

¹⁵ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

A. Criteria ¹⁶	B. Definitions and Further Information ¹⁶	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
<p>8 It is aquatic habitat (excluding artificial water bodies, except for those created for the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity or as mitigation as part of a consented activity) that is within a stream, river, lake, groundwater system, wetland, intertidal mudflat or estuary, or any other part of the coastal marine area and their margins, that is critical to the self-sustainability of an indigenous species within a catchment of the Waikato Region, or within the coastal marine area.</p> <p>In this context 'critical' means essential for a specific component of the life cycle and includes breeding and spawning grounds, juvenile nursery areas, important feeding areas and migratory and dispersal pathways of an indigenous species. This includes areas that maintain connectivity between habitats.</p>	<p>Excludes artificial water bodies, except those created for the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity or as mitigation for a consented activity.</p> <p>Groundwater systems in this context relate to spring-fed streams and wetlands, other wetlands that are primarily fed by ground water (e.g. fens and seepages), and underground water systems. Therefore, a groundwater system in this context is potentially significant in its role of maintaining such spring or ground-fed streams and wetlands.</p> <p>It is likely that sound technical advice will need to be obtained from an appropriately qualified and experienced aquatic ecologist and/or hydrologist.</p> <p>For areas below mean high water springs (MHWS), consult guidance on aquatic habitat within the Waikato Regional Council Coastal Plan (in preparation)¹⁷.</p>	<p>Consultant Ecologist</p> <p>Crown Research Institute, e.g. Landcare Research or National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>University of Waikato</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>Catchment:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Area (ha) or length of habitat:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Species dependent on the system:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

¹⁶ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

¹⁷ Mapping of significant indigenous biodiversity areas within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) will be identified by the proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan. Notification of the revised Coastal Plan is anticipated in 2023, following which guidance and information within the plan should also be consulted when assessing areas in the CMA.

A. Criteria ¹⁸	B. Definitions and Further Information ¹⁸	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
<p>9 It is an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat that is a healthy, representative example of its type because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> its structure, composition, and ecological processes are largely intact; and, if protected from the adverse effects of plant and animal pests and of adjacent land and water use (e.g. stock, discharges, erosion, sediment disturbance), can maintain its ecological sustainability over time. 	<p>Fencing and pest control would be required for most mainland sites in the Waikato Region (irrespective of habitat type).</p> <p>Ecologists assessing this criterion should take into account the site's size, shape, buffering from external effects, and connection to other natural areas. Other factors to be considered include indigenous regeneration and recruitment (e.g. the presence of fruit, seedlings, nests, juveniles, fauna), structural tiers, hydrological processes in wetlands, invasive weeds, pest animals, domestic stock, threat management, management history.</p> <p>Where there is doubt, refer to the representativeness, and diversity and pattern guidelines given in Appendix 2.</p>	<p>Consultant Ecologist Department of Conservation</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>Crown Research Institute, e.g. Landcare Research or National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)</p> <p>Published reports or maps</p> <p>This criterion will require the input of an experienced and qualified ecologist.</p> <p>Good information will be required, and, in most instances, a field visit will be necessary.</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>Rank the following factors High (H), Medium (M) or Low (L):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural intactness ____ Ratio of indigenous:exotic species ____ Connectivity to other natural areas ____ Size of the area in the context of the relevant ecological district ____ Degree of protection from likely threats (e.g., fenced, buffered) ____ Species diversity ____ <p>List no. of responses to the above questions: H ____ M ____ L ____</p> <p>Indicate overall ecological quality of the site: _____</p> <p>Would you consider this to be among the best examples of its type nationally (Y/N), in the Waikato Region (Y/N), or in a particular ecological region/district (Y/N)? Provide justification: _____ _____ _____ _____</p>

¹⁸ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

A. Criteria ¹⁹	B. Definitions and Further Information ¹⁹	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
<p>10 It is an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat that forms part of an ecological sequence that is either not common in the Waikato Region or an ecological district, or is an exceptional, representative example of its type.</p>	<p>Ecological sequences that are not common in the Waikato Region include, but are not restricted to, indigenous dune vegetation through to coastal scrub or forest, lake margins or geothermal systems to indigenous forest, coastal to montane or alpine vegetation.</p> <p>Such sequences should be largely intact (e.g. perhaps bisected by roads but not by large tracts of non-indigenous land cover), such that they can be traversed by most indigenous species that are reliant on such sequences for the completion of part or all of their life-cycles (e.g. by movement of key fauna or dispersal of propagules such as seeds).</p> <p>It will probably be necessary to provide or obtain a map(s) of the sequence and the main vegetation types and habitats that it comprises. GIS analysis using a vegetation map and an appropriate evaluation framework, e.g. ecological district boundaries, may demonstrate whether a sequence is uncommon or one of the better examples.</p> <p>An exceptional, representative sequence will be one of the best examples of its type in the Waikato Region, taking into account its intactness, composition, and ecological processes.</p> <p>Where there is doubt, refer to the diversity and pattern guidelines given in Appendix 2.</p>	<p>Consultant Ecologist</p> <p>Crown Research Institute, e.g. Landcare Research or National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>Published reports or maps</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>Does the site include or is it part of one of the best or only examples of this type of ecological sequence nationally (Y/N), regionally (Y/N), or in the relevant ecological district (Y/N)?</p> <p>Location: _____</p> <p>Key elements of sequence:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Justification:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

¹⁹ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

A. Criteria ¹⁸	B. Definitions and Further Information ²⁰	C. Likely Information Sources	D. Response (Yes? No? Not sure?)	E. If Yes, provide the information requested below to justify your decision and to assist with determining level of significance.
ROLE IN PROTECTION OF ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT AREA				
<p>11 It is an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous species (which habitat is either naturally occurring or has been established as a mitigation measure) that forms, either on its own or in combination with other similar areas, an ecological buffer, linkage or corridor, and which is necessary to protect any site identified as significant under Criteria 1-10 from external adverse effects.</p>	<p>This criterion also includes riparian vegetation that protects a significant aquatic habitat e.g. a freshwater fishery, lake, river, or stream that is important for the sustainability of an indigenous species, or a coastal or marine system.</p> <p>This criterion can also include sites which act as 'stepping stone' habitat between otherwise geographically isolated, significant sites. Determination of how far stepping stone habitat can be from other significant sites will depend on which species is used as an example. Therefore, care should be taken to consult a suitably qualified ecologist when determining whether a site meets this criterion.</p> <p>Where there is doubt, refer to the ecological context guidelines given in Appendix 2.</p>	<p>Consultant Ecologist</p> <p>Crown Research Institute, e.g. Landcare Research or National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)</p> <p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>Published reports or maps</p>	<p>Y / N / NS</p>	<p>Key ecological function(s) of the site (buffer, ecological linkage, other):</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Which site(s) does this area provide a buffer or linkage for?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Which of criteria 1-10 does the buffered or linked site comply with?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Justification:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

²⁰ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

5 Relative importance of an area of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna

Whilst the Waikato Regional Policy statement does not require determination of relative significance for a site which has been identified as significant, these guidelines provide an additional table to determine four levels of importance or relative significance: international, national, regional, and local. Determining the relative significance of significant sites will help decision makers and land managers prioritise management and resource allocation for SNAs within their jurisdiction.

Factors to be assessed when assigning a level of significance to a site are provided below in Table 2. These are elements of the primary criteria 1-11 in Table 1 and they provide additional detail to enable recognition of features that are significant within an international, national, regional, or local context.

Sites assessed using Table 2 must first have been assigned a “Yes” response to at least one of the criteria in Table 1, unless the only criterion met is Criterion 1, in which case one of the other criteria must also be met for a protected site to be significant. A site cannot be assigned to a level of significance unless it has first been shown to be ecologically significant.

A site will be assigned to the highest level at which it meets any one of the factors in Table 2. If a site is assigned a “Yes” response at the International level, for instance, there is no need to progress further down the table, although the site is also likely to comply with elements lower in the hierarchy.

Sites can be assigned a level of significance based on the following factors:

- Legal status and previous assessment (Criterion 1) as an ecologically significant site, and/or;
- Rarity/Threat status (species, habitats, ecosystems) (Criteria 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8), and/or;
- Relative quality (Criteria 7, 9, 10), and/or;
- Ecological function as a buffer, linkage, or corridor (Criterion 11).

NB: A site is ecologically significant in terms of Section 6c of the Resource Management Act if it has been determined as significant using Table 1 above. A relative importance ranking of Local or Regional does not diminish the legislative requirements for sites identified as significant just because their relative level is lower than those of International and National significance.

Table 3 is a checklist that summarises the features a site must hold to be considered of international, national, or regional significance. Use it to double-check significance level assessments. After becoming familiar with the detail in Table 2 you may find it more convenient to use Table 3 directly to apply a level of significance.

Table 2: Relative importance of an area of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna.

In Column A, circle the criteria numbers for which you scored a 'Yes' in Table 1. Then consider the factors to be assessed, and complete Column D, using your answers in Table 1, Column E to justify your response.

A. RPS Criteria met (see Table 1, Section 3 above)	B. Factors to be assessed ²¹	C. Notes	D. Response (Yes / No / Not Sure)
	<p><u>INTERNATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT</u></p> <p>A site is Internationally Significant if you respond 'YES' to any of the questions in this section.</p>	<p>Internationally significant natural areas have usually been identified in previous assessments. These sites are so important that some of them are already protected by international conventions. For example, the Tongariro National Park is a World Heritage Area, and there are three wetlands in the Waikato listed as Wetlands of International Importance under the international Ramsar Convention (Whangamarino Swamp, Kopuatai Peat Dome, and the Firth of Thames estuary).</p> <p>Other natural areas may be internationally significant if they contain high quality vegetation or habitat that is unique in the world - for example, geothermal systems at Waiotapu and Orakeikorako.</p> <p>Internationally significant sites are likely to attract the interest of overseas and NZ scientists, and be a primary attraction for international and national tourists, e.g. Miranda bird sanctuary, Tongariro National Park.</p>	

²¹ Terms highlighted in **bold** type are defined in the glossary on Pages 39-40.

A. RPS Criteria met (see Table 1, Section 3 above)	B. Factors to be assessed ²¹	C. Notes	D. Response (Yes / No / Not Sure)
1	Has it been recognised under international legislation or convention, or recommended for protection by a suitably qualified body, as an internationally significant area (e.g. as a World Heritage Site or a Ramsar site)?	A suitably qualified body able to recommend a site for international recognition includes Department of Conservation, QEII National Trust, Ngā Whenua Rāhui, and Nature Heritage Fund ²² .	Y / N / NS
2	Is it a coastal habitat or ecosystem type within the Coastal Marine Area , which has been depleted or degraded on an international scale <i>and</i> is it degraded to the extent where ecological sustainability is threatened internationally?	For example, shell barrier beaches at Miranda, seagrass beds, or some shellfish beds.	Y / N / NS
3	Is it currently habitat for an indigenous species (or genetically distinct population) which is threatened with extinction (in the categories Nationally Critical, Nationally Endangered, or Nationally Vulnerable) and is endemic to the Waikato Region ?	For a site to meet the criterion for international significance it must comprise significant habitat for a species (or genetically distinct population) on an international basis. It must also provide habitat for the species (or genetically distinct population), and/or the genetic entity must be indigenous to the site. Nationally threatened Waikato endemics include Northern striped gecko, Moehau stag beetle, <i>Corybas carsei</i> .	Y / N / NS
3	Is it a key habitat for the completion of the life cycle of a species (or genetically distinct population) that migrates internationally, the populations of which would be threatened if these habitats were not sustained?	An example of key habitat for international migrants is the Firth of Thames.	Y / N / NS
3	Is it significant habitat for a threatened international migrant at the limit of its natural range?		Y / N / NS

²² DOC = Department of Conservation, WRC = Waikato Regional Council, NHF = Nature Heritage Fund, NWR = Ngā Whenua Rāhui, QEII = QEII National Trust.

A. RPS Criteria met (see Table 1, Section 3 above)	B. Factors to be assessed ²¹	C. Notes	D. Response (Yes / No / Not Sure)
5	Is it one of the best international examples of an ecosystem type which is nationally uncommon?	For example, shell barrier beaches at Miranda.	Y / N / NS
If the site meets several of: 2 & 9, or 4 & 9, or 5 & 9, or 6 & 9, or 7 & 9, or 8 & 9, or 9 & 10	Is the site the best or only remaining large representative example in New Zealand of a suite of relatively intact indigenous ecosystems and ecological sequences e.g. a wetland /forest complex with altitudinal sequences?	This would need to be justified by several well-qualified and experienced ecologists.	Y / N / NS
	<p><u>NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT</u></p> <p>The site is at least Nationally Significant if you can answer 'YES' to any of the questions in this section.</p>	<p>Nationally Significant natural areas include sites that contain healthy populations of threatened species (such as kōkako and kākā habitat at Pureora), or are very good examples of nationally rare habitat or vegetation (such as the large wetlands in the northern Waikato). They also include sites that are the only location where certain species occur, such as the Mahoenui giant wētā.</p> <p>Nationally significant sites tend to attract the interest of scientists, technical specialists, and/or tourists from other parts of New Zealand.</p>	
1	Is it protected, or recommended for protection, under the Conservation Act 1987 (as an Ecological Area, or Forest Sanctuary), National Parks Act 1980, Marine Reserves Act 1971, or Reserves Act 1977 (as a Nature Reserve or Scientific Reserve)?	In the Waikato Region these include, but are not limited to, Tongariro National Park, Waihaha Ecological Area, Waipapa Ecological Area, Mangatutu Ecological Area, Rapurapu Ecological Area, Ecological Areas on the Coromandel Peninsula.	Y / N / NS

A. RPS Criteria met (see Table 1, Section 3 above)	B. Factors to be assessed ²¹	C. Notes	D. Response (Yes / No / Not Sure)
2	Is it a coastal habitat or ecosystem type within the Coastal Marine Area ²³ which has been depleted or degraded on a national scale <i>and</i> is it degraded to the extent where ecological sustainability is threatened nationally ²⁴ ?	Examples in the Waikato Region include rhodolith beds.	Y / N / NS
3	Is it habitat used on a regular basis by, or is key habitat for, an indigenous species (or genetically distinct population) in the threat categories 'Nationally Critical', 'Nationally Endangered', or 'Nationally Vulnerable'?	Sites where low numbers are present on only a few occasions (and are unlikely to be important for the long-term viability of the species) do not meet this criterion. For a site to meet this criterion for national significance, it will be of importance for the viability of the species (or genetically distinct population) on a national basis. The site will provide habitat for the species (or genetically distinct population), and it will either be used on an ongoing basis , or be important for sustaining a population on a seasonal basis for key components of its life cycle (e.g. feeding site), or be an important migratory site, breeding site, or over-wintering site.	Y / N / NS
3	Is it one of the best quality examples nationally of habitats used on an ongoing basis by a species (or a genetically distinct population) in the At Risk categories 'Declining', 'Recovering', 'Relict', or 'Naturally Uncommon'?	For example, Archey's frog habitat at Whareorino.	Y / N / NS
3	Is it a key habitat for the completion of the life cycle of a nationally Threatened or At Risk species (or genetically distinct population) that migrate nationally and that would be threatened if these habitats were not sustained?	For example, over-wintering habitat for black stilt at Kawhia Harbour, or over-wintering habitat for banded dotterel at Kawhia Harbour and Aotea Harbour.	Y / N / NS

²³ In addition to this criterion, any potential SNA identified within the Coastal Marine Area should be assessed against all eleven criteria within this guidance document AND Policy 11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

²⁴ Mapping of significant indigenous biodiversity areas within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) will be identified by the proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan. Notification of the revised Coastal Plan is anticipated in 2023, following which guidance and information within the plan should also be consulted when assessing areas in the CMA.

A. RPS Criteria met (see Table 1, Section 3 above)	B. Factors to be assessed ²¹	C. Notes	D. Response (Yes / No / Not Sure)
2 & 9, or 4 & 9 or 5 & 9 or 6 & 9	Is it indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous species that is under-represented nationally (20% or less remains), or nationally uncommon (including wetland) that is a good quality example that is representative of its type?	Good quality examples would receive mostly high or medium ratings for Criterion 9 in Table 1, taking into account size, presence of plant and animal pests, stock damage, and other damaging effects. For the definition of vegetation types refer to Criterion 4 in Table 1 above: Column B, Definitions and Further Information.	List no. of responses to criterion 9 in Table 1: H _____ M _____ L _____ Y / N / NS
	<u>REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT</u> The site is at least Regionally Significant if you can respond 'YES' to any of the questions in this section.	Regionally significant natural areas include the best examples in the Waikato Region of habitats that may be common elsewhere in New Zealand - for example, our best dune systems or largest mangrove-filled estuaries, or large examples of more common vegetation types. They may also include degraded examples of nationally rare features.	
1	Is it protected, or has been recommended to be protected, under the Reserves Act 1977, as a Wildlife Management Reserve, Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Reserve, Ngā Whenua Rāhui Kawenata, or for any conservation purpose under the Conservation Act such as a Conservation Area or Conservation Park, specifically for the protection of biodiversity?		Y / N / NS Status: _____ Recommended Status: _____
1	Is it protected, or has it been recommended to be protected, as a QEII Open Space Covenant, Ngā Whenua Rāhui Kawenata, or Nature Heritage Fund reserve for biodiversity protection purposes other than those outlined for sites of international or national significance?		Y / N / NS

A. RPS Criteria met (see Table 1, Section 3 above)	B. Factors to be assessed ²¹	C. Notes	D. Response (Yes / No / Not Sure)
2	Is it a coastal habitat or ecosystem type within the Coastal Marine Area ²⁵ which has been depleted or degraded on a regional scale <i>and</i> is it degraded to the extent where ecological sustainability is threatened regionally ²⁶ ?	For example, green-lipped mussel (<i>Perna canaliculus</i>) beds, subtidal seagrass beds, estuarine habitat.	Y / N / NS
3	Is it habitat of considerable importance for the conservation of an indigenous species (or genetically distinct population) in the 'At Risk' category ('Declining', 'Recovering', 'Relict', and 'Naturally Uncommon'), or is important habitat for a non-threatened species that is endemic to the Waikato Region , or at the limits of its natural range .	Assessment of whether a species is regionally uncommon in the Waikato Region would have to be justified by a well-qualified and experienced ecologist(s) very familiar with the species and ecology of the Waikato Region. Sites where low numbers are present on only a few occasions and sites that are unlikely to be important for long-term viability of the species, or genetically distinct population, do not meet this criterion.	Y / N / NS Species: _____ Threat Status: _____
3	Is it habitat of importance for the conservation of a regionally uncommon species (or genetically distinct population) within the Waikato Region, although the species is secure elsewhere?	For a site to meet this criterion for regional significance, the site will be of importance for the viability of a particular species (or genetically distinct population) on a regional basis. The site will provide habitat for the species (or genetically distinct population), and it will either be used on an ongoing basis , or be important for sustaining a population on a seasonal basis for key components of its life cycle (e.g. feeding site), or be an important migratory site, breeding site, or over-wintering site. Small populations of threatened plants, which are not significant on a national basis, but in the Threatened categories Nationally Critical, Nationally Endangered, or Nationally Vulnerable, may be placed in this category.	Y / N / NS Species: _____ Threat Status: _____
3	Is it habitat considered (by several qualified and experienced ecologists) to be of importance for the sustainability of a 'data-deficient' species on a regional basis.		Y / N / NS Species: _____ Threat Status: _____

²⁵ In addition to this criterion, any potential SNA identified within the Coastal Marine Area should be assessed against all eleven criteria within this guidance document AND Policy 11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

²⁶ Mapping of significant indigenous biodiversity areas within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) will be identified by the proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan. Notification of the revised Coastal Plan is anticipated in 2023, following which guidance and information within the plan should also be consulted when assessing areas in the CMA.

A. RPS Criteria met (see Table 1, Section 3 above)	B. Factors to be assessed ²¹	C. Notes	D. Response (Yes / No / Not Sure)
2 & 9 or, 4 & 9	Is it indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous species that is under-represented regionally (i.e. within relevant ecological regions and districts) and which is a good quality example that is representative of its type (taking into account size, plant and animal pests, stock damage, and other damaging effects)?	Good quality examples would receive high or medium ratings for Criterion 9 in Table 1. Assessment must be justified by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist.	Y / N / NS List no. of responses to question 9 in Table 1: H _____ M _____ L _____
4, 5, or 6	Is it a relatively large example of indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous species that is under-represented nationally, or nationally uncommon (including wetlands), but which is degraded in quality (taking into account presence of plant and animal pests, stock damage, and other damaging effects)?	Assessment must be justified by a well-qualified and experienced ecologist. Use the results from Criterion 9 in Table 1 to determine the relative quality of the site.	Y / N / NS
4	Is it the Region's only remaining representative example (irrespective of its size) of a particular indigenous vegetation type or indigenous species habitat that is degraded in quality?	Representative examples are vegetation/habitat types that are typical or characteristic of the indigenous biodiversity of an ecological district and which include all the expected species/assemblages for a particular ecological district and/or landform. The reality for many landscapes, particularly throughout much of the Waikato, is that a ' representative example' will be the largest and most diverse remaining example of indigenous vegetation and habitats. Degraded sites would receive mostly Low scores for the factors listed in Criterion 9.	Y / N / NS List no. of responses to question 9 in Table 1: H _____ M _____ L _____

A. RPS Criteria met (see Table 1, Section 3 above)	B. Factors to be assessed ²¹	C. Notes	D. Response (Yes / No / Not Sure)
9 or 8 & 9 or 10 & 9	Is it one of the best representative examples in the Waikato Region of indigenous vegetation, or habitat for indigenous fauna, or an ecological sequence ?	Assessment must be justified by a well-qualified and experienced ecologist.	Y / N / NS
7 & 9	Is it a large, good quality example of indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous species representative of the ecological character typical of the Waikato Region?	<p>This may include examples of indigenous vegetation that are large or moderately large relative to other similar habitats in the Region or within the relevant ecological district. They should be relatively intact and retain the main elements of their original composition structure.</p> <p>Examples would include relatively large tracts of indigenous forest and habitats on the Hakarimata Range and Kaimai Range.</p>	Y / N / NS
11	Is it a buffer (or a key part of a buffer) to a site that is of international or national significance?	The site buffered must have first been shown to be of national or international significance using relevant sections in Table 2 above.	Y / N / NS
All	<p><u>LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT</u></p> <p>The site is at least of Local Significance if you answered “Yes” to at least one of criteria 2-11 in Table 1 but did not answer “Yes” to any of the questions above in Table 2.</p>	<p>Locally significant natural areas are healthy examples of relatively common vegetation and habitat types. They are often small areas, but large enough to enable key ecological processes to occur, such as regeneration of seedlings or reproduction and recruitment of indigenous fauna. These sites may not be particularly significant in their own right, but nevertheless play an important part in a network of natural areas. For example, a locally significant site might be important as a seasonal feeding or breeding area. It might also act as a ‘stepping stone’ between other natural areas, allowing indigenous fauna to move in search of food or mates.</p> <p>Such sites are likely to provide representative examples of common or typical vegetation types or habitat for common indigenous species. They will not be among the best examples in the Region but will meet Criterion 9 as healthy, functioning, and ecologically viable sites.</p>	Y / N

A. RPS Criteria met <small>(see Table 1, Section 3 above)</small>	B. Factors to be assessed²¹	C. Notes	D. Response (Yes / No / Not Sure)
HOW SIGNIFICANT IS THE SITE?		Circle the highest level for which you allocated at least one “Yes” response in Table 2. This indicates the relative importance of the site.	International, National, Regional, Local

Table 3: Checklist for assessing the relative importance of an area of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna.

Notes for Table 3

If a site is not of international, national, or regional significance, but meets one of the 11 criteria, it is locally significant.

- 1 Sites that are the ‘best’ example of their type will also meet Criterion 9. For international significance, such sites will also be likely to meet a number of other criteria and must comprise an ecosystem complex.
- 2 Levels of significance are applicable to any site that is part of a larger area that qualifies under any criterion.
- 3 A site that is significant as a large area of wildlife habitat, aquatic habitat, or a representative example of its type, will only be of greater than regional significance if it also meets one of the other criteria for which national or international levels apply. For instance, if the site was also habitat for acutely threatened species, it would be assessed using Criterion 3 as well as Criteria 7, 8, or 9.

Criteria	Reason for Significance	Significance Levels		
		International	National	Regional
1	Legally protected or recommended for protection.	RAMSAR or World Heritage Site.	Ecological Area, Forest Sanctuary, National Park, Marine Reserve, Nature Reserve, Scientific Reserve.	Other areas recognised under the Reserves Act, or Conservation Act, or QEII National Trust, Ngā Whenua Rāhui, or Nature Heritage Fund.
2	Coastal vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna that has been reduced in extent by human impacts.	Internationally depleted or degraded coastal vegetation or habitat type.	Nationally depleted or degraded coastal vegetation or habitat type.	Regionally depleted or degraded coastal vegetation or habitat type.
3	Threatened or At Risk species. Waikato Endemic. Species at the limits of their natural range. Regionally uncommon species.	Nationally Threatened Waikato endemic species. Threatened species at their international range limit. International migrants that would be threatened if this habitat were lost.	Nationally Threatened species. Best example habitat for a species at its natural range limit. Nationally At Risk Waikato endemic species.	Nationally At Risk species. Non-threatened Waikato endemic species. Non-threatened species at the limit of their natural range. Regionally uncommon species.

Criteria	Reason for Significance	Significance Levels		
		International	National	Regional
4	Under-represented vegetation or ecosystem type.	Best or only remaining large example of a suite or sequence of ecosystems. For criteria 4, 5, 6, and 10, sites in this category would also be likely to meet a number of other criteria and form an ecosystem complex.	Good quality example of nationally under-represented vegetation or ecosystem type (must also meet Criterion 9).	Good quality example of regionally under-represented vegetation or ecosystem type. OR Relatively large but degraded example of a nationally under-represented habitat type. OR Degraded example but the Region's only remaining example (of any size).
5	Nationally/naturally uncommon ecosystem.	Best or only remaining large example in NZ of a suite of naturally uncommon ecosystems.	Good quality example of a nationally rare type (must also meet Criterion 9).	Relatively large but degraded example.
6	Wetland habitat.	Best or only remaining large example in NZ of a wetland type with gradients between other ecosystem types.	Good quality example (must also meet Criterion 9).	Relatively large but degraded example.
7	Large, diverse, intact habitat.	See note 2 above.	See note 2 above.	Good quality representative example (must also meet Criterion 9).
8	Aquatic habitat.	See note 2 above.	See note 2 above.	The Region's best or only example of a good quality example (must also meet Criterion 9).
9	Representative example.	See note 2 above.	See note 2 above.	One of the Region's best examples.
10	Uncommon or exceptional ecological sequence.	Best or only remaining large example of a suite or sequence of ecosystems.	Good quality example of a nationally rare ecological sequence (must also meet Criterion 9).	One of the Region's best examples (must also meet Criterion 9).
11	Buffer	-	-	Buffers a site that is of national or international significance.

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7 Definitions

* Denotes definitions taken directly from the 2016 Waikato Policy Statement

Coastal Marine Area*: means the foreshore, seabed, and coastal water, and the air space above the water of which a) the seaward boundary is the outer limits of the territorial sea, or b) the landward boundary is the line of mean high water springs, except that where that line crosses a river, the landward boundary at that point shall be whichever is the lesser of i) one kilometre upstream from the mouth of the river; or ii) the point upstream that is calculated by multiplying the width of the river mouth by five.

Critical: Essential for a specific component of the life cycle and includes breeding and spawning grounds, juvenile nursery areas, important feeding areas and migratory and dispersal pathways of an indigenous species.

Ecological sustainability*: A site's ability to continue to exist as an area of indigenous vegetation or habitat for indigenous fauna when taking into account its size, shape, buffering from external effects, connection to other natural areas, and likely threats. It may change naturally into a different habitat but will continue to contain mainly indigenous species and remain of natural character.

Ecological sequence*: A series of two or more connected ecosystem or vegetation types that retain natural transition zones along an environmental gradient.

Endemic to the Waikato Region: Only occurs naturally within the Waikato Region.

Forest: Woody vegetation in which the cover of trees and shrubs in the canopy is >80% and in which tree cover exceeds that of shrubs. Trees are woody plants >10 cm diameter at breast height (1.4 metres above ground level). Treeferns >10 cm are treated as trees.

Natural Habitat: Indigenous vegetation or habitats similar to the pre-human environment(s) where the species (or genetically distinct population) was found for key components of its life cycle. In most instances the site will have undergone adverse changes (e.g. as a result of invasive species, logging, reduction in size or loss of connectivity) but key elements of natural character will remain (site condition may also have improved as a result of intensive control of pest plants and animals). Natural habitat can, in some situations, move across a landscape over time due to natural changes (e.g. volcanism, active dunes, landslides, and geothermal manifestations).

Natural range: The geographic and abiotic range within which a plant or animal species would be naturally be found without human intervention.

Ongoing Basis: A species (or genetically distinct population) utilises a site for key components of its life cycle. For fauna, this includes habitats that comprise a key component for its survival, as a food source, breeding ground, roosting site, hibernating site, aestivating site, or site for other key natural behaviours for the species. For plants this would include a site where a species is well-established (i.e. a population is maintained over several years), but it would not include a site where there is only one record of a species which is unlikely to have established permanently at a site. Old records may be important for some biota as many species may only be conspicuous during a particular season or not in every year.

Representative example: Representative examples are vegetation/habitat types that are typical or characteristic of the indigenous biodiversity of an ecological district and which include all the expected species/assemblages for an ecological district and/or landform. This includes healthy examples of commonplace vegetation/habitats where most of the

expected species/assemblages are present and also includes secondary or regenerating vegetation that is recovering following natural or induced disturbance provided species composition is typical of that vegetation/habitat.

Scrub: Woody vegetation in which the cover of shrubs and trees in the canopy is >80% and in which shrub cover exceeds that of trees (c.f. forest). Shrubs are woody plants <10cm diameter at breast height (1.4 metres above the ground).

Shrubland: Vegetation in which the cover of shrubs in the canopy is 20-80% and in which the shrub cover exceeds that of any other growth form or bare ground. Shrubs are woody plants <10cm diameter at breast height (1.4 metres above the ground).

Under-represented: 20% or less of known or likely original extent remaining.

Wetland: A wetland, as defined by Section 2 of the Resource Management Act (1991), is permanently or intermittently wet areas, shallow water, and land water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions.

Appendix 1. Potential current and historical vegetation types of the Waikato Region split by Ecological District based on Singers and Rogers 2014 vegetation classifications¹.

Note on the use of the vegetation classification data

The ecosystem classification data used to map potential ecosystems of the Waikato Region was a desktop exercise only which was developed by the Department of Conservation as a tool for prioritising ecosystem management at a national scale (Singers & Rogers 2014). This classification is a desktop modelling exercise which amalgamates previous ecosystem and vegetation type classifications, ecological studies aligned to an abiotic framework, and other GIS layers which could inform potential ecosystem and vegetation type patterns (e.g. soil maps). The data set describes a full range of ecosystem types at a variety of scales in a natural or potential state as they potentially existed if people arrived today in New Zealand. Consequently, the mapped vegetation type may not match the current vegetation type in any given polygon, landscape unit, or District.

In total, the classification led to 152 ecosystems being recognised. However, this is just one possible scale of classification, with coarser or finer levels possible depending on purpose. Some manual digitising of the data set has been undertaken using Waikato Regional Council aerial photographs and validation of the mapped types is currently underway. Consequently, the values contained within the following table may be subject to change in the future².

For more information on the methodology and limitations of the dataset please refer to Singers and Rogers 2014: A classification of New Zealand's terrestrial ecosystems. Science for Conservation publication No. 325. Department of Conservation, Wellington.

¹ DISCLAIMER: The areas and percentages of vegetation types given in this table represent predicted values for the areas of vegetation located within the portion of each Ecological District located within the Waikato Region only. In particular, the following ecological districts only have a small part of their area located within the Waikato Region therefore the representativeness of the values given in this table should not be extrapolated for the remainder of the Ecological District outside the Waikato Region: Āwhitu, Manukau, Hunua, Te Aroha, Ōtānewainuku, Rotorua, Pureora, Kaingaroa, Tongariro, Taumarunui, North Taranaki, Moawhango, and Kaimanawa.

² It is expected that the data set will be reviewed at regular intervals depending on Council resource availability. Please apply to the Waikato Regional Council for the most up to date information if required.

Vegetation/Habitat Type	Ecological Districts														
	Atiamuri			Āwhitu			Colville			Hamilton			Hapuakohe		
	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining
CDF4-1, Hall's tōtara, pāhautea, kāmahī forest	438.4	367.8	83.9												
CL1, Pōhutukawa treeland/flaxland/rockland				35.5	0.0	0.0	256.5	100.8	39.3						
DN2, Spinifex, pīngao grassland/sedgeland				73.5	0.0	0.0	0.6	13.6	2,177.2						
DN2/5, Coastal sand dunes mosaic				0.0	8.5	N/A	0.0	51.3	N/A						
GT, Geothermal	687.0	725.9	105.7												
MF10, Tōtara, mataī, kahikatea forest	113,844.9	309.3	0.3												
MF11, Rimu forest	126.4	42.2	33.4												
MF11-3, Rimu, mataī forest	2,633.9	282.5	10.7												
MF20, Hard beech forest	7.5	7.5	100.0												
MF22, Tawa, rimu, northern rātā, beech forest	16.4	16.4	100.0												
MF24, Rimu, tōwai forest							981.9	660.7	67.3						
MF25, Kauri, tōwai, rātā, montane podocarp forest							839.2	703.9	83.9						
MF4, Kahikatea forest	3,579.4	0.0	0.0												
MF4, Kahikatea forest and WL, Swamp mosaic	2,074.6	142.3	6.9												
MF7.1, Tawa, mangle forest	20,329.2	2,789.2	13.7							45,267.5	101.3	0.2			
MF7.2, Rātā, tawa, kāmahī, podocarp forest	4,479.6	2,047.5	45.7												
MF8.1, Kāmahī, broadleaved, podocarp forest	66,797.0	2,455.8	3.7												
Open Water	2,751.1	74.7	2.7	16.4	0.0	0.0	47.9	0.3	0.6	1,099.6	45.1	4.1	22.1	0.4	1.8
Reclaimed							0.4	0.0	0.0						
SA1.1, Seagrass herbfield							214.0	0.0	0.0						
SA1.2, Mangrove forest and scrub							147.5	90.3	61.2						
SA1.3, Searush, oioi, rushland [Saltmarsh]							408.9	95.5	23.4						
Strand							7.7	9.2	119.3						
TI3, Monoao scrub/lichenfield	1,129.9	0.0	0.0												
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest	328.8	52.5	16.0	0.0	31.4	N/A	0.0	2,494.0	0.0	0.0	218.1	N/A	0.0	1,170.4	N/A
WF11.1, Kauri, podocarp, taraire forest				2,422.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	N/A						
WF11.2, Kauri, podocarp, tawa forest							58,646.3	10,820.1	18.4	68.6	26.0	37.9	328.9	241.0	73.3
WF12, Kauri, podocarp, broadleaved beech forest							110.0	58.0	52.7	1,084.3	81.8	7.5	38,620.4	3,540.0	9.2
WF13, Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hīnau, podocarp forest							4,597.9	1,947.6	42.4	24,271.9	761.8	3.1	25,982.5	3,469.4	13.4
WF2, Tōtara, mataī, ribbonwood forest	189.5	0.0	0.0							15,607.4	85.7	0.5	1,575.7	23.8	1.5
WF4, Pōhutukawa, pūriri, broadleaved forest							5,720.1	947.9	16.6						
WF5, Tōtara, kānuka, broadleaved forest [Dune forest]				1,972.0	2.6	0.1	287.7	8.0	2.8						
WF7.1, Pūriri forest				258.3	0.0	0.0									
WF7.2, Pūriri, taraire forest				0.0	80.2	0.0									
WF7.3, Kahikatea, pūriri forest							2,207.0	8.5	0.4						
WF8, Kahikatea, pukatea forest				0.0	2.6	0.0	1,274.0	1.1	0.1	23,521.1	273.0	1.2	5,856.1	100.8	1.7
WF8/WL, Kahikatea, pukatea forest and Swamp mosaic				896.7	0.0	0.0									
WF9, Taraire, tawa, podocarp forest				785.9	50.4	6.4	0.0	41.2	N/A				0.0	2.0	N/A
WL, Fen mosaic	118.5	7.1	6.0				31.0	0.0	0.0				208.7	78.0	37.4
WL, Swamp mosaic	2,003.2	775.1	38.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	85.8	43.9	51.2	333.8	216.0	64.7	203.8	99.4	48.8
WL, Swamp/fen mosaic	709.4	20.4	2.9				39.5	9.3	23.5	2,347.1	13.2	0.6	85.7	0.0	0.0
WL18, Flaxland	17.6	27.9	158.3				0.0	24.3	N/A				0.0	0.3	N/A
WL2, Mānuka, greater wire rush restiad rushland													32.5	8.4	25.9
WL2/3, Bog Mosaic										45,742.9	304.5	0.7	786.5	14.6	1.9

Vegetation/Habitat Type	Ecological Districts														
	Hauraki			Herangi			Hinuera			Hunua			Kaimai		
	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining
AH1, Gravelfield/stonefield [Fellfield]													373.7	358.2	95.8
AH4, Woolly moss, bristle tussock, blue tussock mossfield/tussockland/stonefield													0.0	0.6	N/A
AL3, Red tussock tussockland/shrubland													1,617.0	1,605.2	99.3
AL4, Mid-ribbed and broad-leaved snow tussock tussockland/shrubland													3,594.8	3,916.4	108.9
BR1, Hard tussock, scabweed gravelfield/stonefield													202.2	49.2	24.3
CDF3, Mountain beech forest													8,642.2	8,052.1	93.2
CDF4-1, Hall's tōtara, pāhautea, kāmahī forest				1,352.7	783.2	57.9							74.6	74.6	100.0
CDF6, <i>Olearia</i> , <i>Pseudopanax</i> , <i>Dracophyllum</i> scrub [Subalpine scrub]													1.7	591.4	35,415.9
CL2, Ngaio, taupata treeland/herbfield/rockland				227.4	7.2	3.2									
CLF10, Red beech, silver beech forest													10,446.0	2,288.5	21.9
CLF11, Silver beech forest													1,912.8	1,690.7	88.4
CLF12, Silver beech, mountain beech forest													2,482.9	2,408.6	97.0
CLF9, Red beech, podocarp forest													5,999.6	5,626.2	93.8
CLF9-3, Red beech, mountain beech forest													2,850.8	2,827.0	99.2
DN2, Spinifex, pīngao grassland/sedgeland				15.8	15.4	97.6									
DN2/5, Coastal sand dunes mosaic				0.0	33.5	N/A									
MF10, Tōtara, mataī, kahikatea forest							5.5	0.0	0.0						
MF11-3, Rimu, mataī forest													74.0	74.0	100.0
MF20, Hard beech forest				0.0	78.3	N/A									
MF24, Rimu, tōwai forest										438.9	438.9	100.0			
MF7.1, Tawa, mangeao forest							7,313.3	52.7	0.7						
MF7.2, Rātā, tawa, kāmahī, podocarp forest				5,940.8	4,855.6	81.7									
MF7.3, Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest				8,339.0	5,073.0	60.8									
MF8.1, Kāmahī, broadleaved, podocarp forest													1,082.0	1,081.8	100.0
Open Water	395.3	1.5	0.4	46.6	0.7	1.4	214.6	9.4	4.4	314.5	5.0	1.6	27.4	0.3	1.3
SA1.1, Seagrass herbfield	18.2	0.0	0.0	21.4	0.0	0.0				29.0	0.0	0.0			
SA1.2, Mangrove forest and scrub	188.5	54.2	28.8												
SA1.3, Searush, oioi, rushland [Saltmarsh]	88.4	2.6	3.0	52.7	0.0	0.0									
SA1.5, Shellfield (Chenier Plain)	9.4	3.2	33.4												
SA1.6, Saltmarsh, ribbonwood, ngaio, akeake scrub	50.5	3.8	7.5												
SC1, Gravelfield													2.9	0.0	0.0
Strand				0.0	37.5	N/A									
TI3/TI5, Frostflat mosaic													0.0	0.1	N/A
TI3/TI5/TI6, Frostflat mosaic													108.6	8,208.7	7,558.1
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest	0.0	213.1	N/A	0.0	7.9	N/A	0.0	52.1	0.0	0.0	1,347.9	N/A	0.0	31.2	N/A
WF11.2, Kauri, podocarp, tawa forest	1,709.2	255.8	15.0				63.0	59.6	94.6						
WF12, Kauri, podocarp, broadleaved, beech forest	1,794.8	19.1	1.1				66.5	4.6	7.0	8,757.0	3,486.8	39.8			
WF13, Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hīnau, podocarp forest	8,344.7	90.4	1.1	33,672.6	17,595.8	52.3	24,407.8	470.5	1.9	11,772.9	6,938.4	58.9			
WF14, Kāmahī, tawa, podocarp, hard beech forest				864.4	238.1	27.5									
WF2, Tōtara, mataī, ribbonwood forest	1,331.9	19.4	1.5	59.9	0.0	0.0	24,545.2	50.7	0.2	500.8	0.0	0.0			
WF4, Pōhutukawa, pūriri, broadleaved forest	674.7	0.8	0.1	2,038.2	0.0	0.0				1,190.6	2.3	0.2			
WF5, Tōtara, kānuka, broadleaved forest [Dune forest]	455.3	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0				24.0	0.0	0.0			
WF7.2, Pūriri, taraire forest										160.6	0.0	0.0			
WF8, Kahikatea, pukatea forest	37,402.6	100.7	0.3	1,675.2	37.0	2.2	49,616.4	248.1	0.5	1,061.3	18.3	1.7			
WF8/WL, Kahikatea, pukatea forest and Swamp mosaic				0.0	4.1	N/A							91.6	83.9	91.6
WF9, Taraire, tawa podocarp forest															
WL, Bog/fen mosaic	485.4	0.6	0.1												
WL, Fen mosaic				0.6	0.0	0.0				42.6	0.0	0.0			
WL, Swamp mosaic	1,727.0	1,667.6	96.6	175.8	42.6	24.2	22.3	31.1	139.3	4.5	2.1	46.0			
WL, Swamp/fen mosaic							235.5	2.6	1.1						
WL18, Flaxland	0.0	0.5	N/A												
WL2, Mānuka, greater wire rush restiad rushland	8,351.8	303.7	3.6				298.2	1.1	0.4						
WL2/3, Bog Mosaic	805.5	0.3	0.0												
WL3, Bamboo rush, greater wire rush restiad rushland	13,500.1	9,291.7	68.8												

Vegetation/Habitat Type	Ecological Districts														
	Kāingaroa			Kawhia			Manukau			Maungatautari			Mercury Islands		
	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining
CDF4-1, Hall's tōtara, pāhautea, kāmahī forest				2,738.0	2,651.1	96.8				344.2	344.2	100.0			
CL1, Pōhutukawa treeland/flaxland/rockland				121.7	9.8	8.0							96.2	42.8	44.5
CL2, Ngaio, taupata treeland/herbfield/rockland				26.5	30.1	113.3									
CLF10, Red beech, silver beech forest	2,557.2	0.0	0.0												
CLF5, Mataī, hall's tōtara, kāmahī forest	14,315.8	17.4	0.1												
CLF9, Red beech, podocarp forest	560.6	0.0	0.0												
DN2, Spinifex, pingao grassland/sedgeland				285.9	130.0	45.5							3.3	0.0	0.0
DN2/5, Coastal sand dunes mosaic				0.0	200.0	N/A									
DN5, Oioi, knobby clubbrush sedgeland				1.4	0.0	0.0									
MF10, Tōtara, mataī, kahikatea forest	78,110.3	2.6	0.0							73.4	0.0	0.0			
MF11-3, Rimu, mataī forest	2,435.3	0.0	0.0												
MF22, Tawa, rimu, northern rātā, beech forest	9.7	0.0	0.0												
MF4, Kahikatea forest	121.8	0.0	0.0												
MF7.1, Tawa, mangle forest	34,443.3	0.0	0.0							20,464.5	2,260.5	11.0			
MF7.2, Rātā, tawa, kāmahī, podocarp forest	5,323.8	0.0	0.0	7,425.0	4,985.8	67.1				1,139.4	1,112.4	97.6			
MF7.3, Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest										60.3	0.0	0.0			
MF8.1, Kāmahī, broadleaved, podocarp forest	5,397.3	69.9	1.3							1.1	0.0	0.0			
Open Water	480.5	0.0	0.0	393.3	0.0	0.0	30.2	0.0	0.0	883.5	10.9	1.2			
SA1.1, Seagrass herbfield				558.1	6.9	1.2									
SA1.3, Searush, oioi, rushland [Saltmarsh]				151.7	86.9	57.3									
SA1.6, Saltmarsh, ribbonwood, ngaio, akeake scrub				0.0	1.4	N/A									
Strand				0.0	71.9	N/A							0.0	1.2	N/A
TI3, Monoao scrub/lichenfield	91,219.2	2.3	0.0												
TI4, <i>Coprosma</i> , <i>Olearia</i> scrub [Grey scrub]	1,802.0	0.0	0.0												
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest	290.8	43.2	14.9	0.0	2,451.6	N/A	0.0	73.1	N/A	0.0	331.5	N/A	0.0	102.4	N/A
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest and VS5, Broadleaved species scrub/forest mosaic	121.2	0.0	0.0												
VS8, Monoao scrub	7.4	0.0	0.0												
WF11.2, Kauri, podocarp, tawa forest							0.0	13.0	N/A	0.0	1.6	N/A	1,128.9	8.6	0.8
WF12, Kauri, podocarp, broadleaved, beech forest							974.4	7.6	0.8						
WF13, Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hīnau, podocarp forest	14,342.7	0.0	0.0	108,205.0	30,943.7	28.6	12.8	0.3	2.6	57,520.4	4,591.6	8.0			
WF2, Tōtara, mataī, ribbonwood forest	4,794.7	0.0	0.0	327.7	16.3	5.0				1,288.7	28.6	2.2			
WF4, Pōhutukawa, pūriri, broadleaved forest				2,148.7	13.9	0.6							506.3	81.9	16.2
WF5, Tōtara, kānuka, broadleaved forest [Dune forest]				3,749.7	285.2	7.6									
WF7.1, Pūriri forest							38.0	0.0	0.0						
WF7.2, Pūriri, taraire forest							5,995.5	535.9	8.9						
WF7.3, Kahikatea, pūriri forest							0.0	3.6	N/A						
WF8, Kahikatea, pukatea forest	213.7	0.0	0.0	1,974.2	132.1	6.7	279.7	10.5	3.7	5,295.7	23.6	0.4			
WF8/WL, Kahikatea, pukatea forest and Swamp mosaic	81.5	0.0	0.0				4,082.1	0.0	0.0						
WF9, Taraire, tawa podocarp forest							2,816.0	98.2	3.5						
WL, Bog/fen mosaic							3.0	0.0	0.0						
WL, Fen mosaic	793.0	5.3	0.7	69.5	49.5	71.1							3.9	0.0	0.0
WL, Swamp mosaic	350.1	8.8	2.5	370.5	217.7	58.8	3.0	1.9	64.0	25.7	4.8	18.8	10.2	8.3	81.9
WL, Swamp/fen mosaic	180.3	0.8	0.5	137.3	70.2	51.1									
WL14, Ephemeral wetland	1.5	0.0	0.0												
WL18, Flaxland				0.0	1.3	N/A									
WL2, Mānuka, greater wire rush restiad rushland							85.6	1.2	1.4						
WL22, <i>Carex</i> , <i>Schoenus pauciflorus</i> sedgeland	2.6	0.0	0.0												

Vegetation/Habitat Type	Ecological Districts														
	Meremere			Moawhango			North Taranaki			Ōtānewainuku			Pureora		
	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining
AH1, Gravelfield/stonefield [Fellfield]				3.6	3.2	88.6									
AL3, Red tussock tussockland/shrubland				109.0	91.6	84.0									
AL4, Mid-ribbed and broad-leaved snow tussock tussockland/shrubland				0.0	279.3	N/A									
CDF3, Mountain beech forest				747.9	347.4	46.4									
CDF4-1, Hall's tōtara, pāhautea, kāmahī forest							654.7	553.1	84.5	45.3	309.7	683.2	6,514.8	1,036.8	15.9
CDF4-4, Pink pine, pāhautea forest										1,396.2	939.0	67.3			
CDF6, <i>Olearia</i> , <i>Pseudopanax</i> , <i>Dracophyllum</i> scrub [Subalpine scrub]				1.3	141.2	10,736.6							80.3	0.0	0.0
CL1, Pōhutukawa treeland/flaxland/rockland							0.0	1.1	N/A						
CL2, Ngaio, taupata treeland/herbfield/rockland							68.1	6.6	9.7						
CLF11, Silver beech forest				1.1	0.0	0.0				16.7	16.7	100.0			
DN2, Spinifex, pīngao grassland/sedgeland							6.6	0.2	2.6						
DN2/5, Coastal sand dunes mosaic	222.1	87.8	39.5				0.0	16.8	N/A						
MF10, Tōtara, mataī, kahikatea forest	0.0	6.6	N/A							25.4	0.7	2.7	22,410.3	864.9	3.9
MF11, Rimu forest										5.9	0.2	3.3			
MF11-3, Rimu, mataī forest													7,633.8	770.9	10.1
MF20, Hard beech forest							0.0	1,140.7	N/A						
MF21, Tawa, kāmahī, rimu, northern rātā, black beech forest							4,451.3	3,557.2	79.9						
MF22, Tawa, rimu, northern rātā, beech forest										59.7	19.4	32.5			
MF7.1, Tawa, mangeao forest										4,624.5	3,735.8	80.8			
MF7.2, Rātā, Tawa, kāmahī, podocarp forest										5,574.7	5,060.9	90.8	57,052.8	9,727.2	17.0
MF7.3, Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest							16,836.6	11,883.7	70.6				0.0	4.4	N/A
MF8.1, Kāmahī, broadleaved, podocarp forest							52.3	0.0	0.0	2.7	2.7	99.9	17,894.7	3,791.0	21.2
Open Water	6,195.3	41.8	0.7				79.4	2.0	2.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	207.9	0.0	0.0
SA1.1, Seagrass herbfield	31.8	1.2	3.8				19.3	0.0	0.0						
SA1.3, Searush, oioi, rushland [Saltmarsh]							12.6	9.2	73.2						
Strand							0.8	6.8	865.0						
TI3, Monoao scrub/lichenfield													377.0	345.3	91.6
TI5, Bog pine, mountain celery pine, silver pine scrub/forest													379.5	425.8	112.2
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest	0.0	1,300.9	N/A				0.0	117.8	N/A				0.0	58.0	N/A
WF11.1, Kauri, podocarp, taraire forest	714.1	0.0	0.0												
WF11.2, Kauri, podocarp, tawa forest	5,422.0	127.2	2.3							20.4	20.3	99.8			
WF12, Kauri, podocarp, broadleaved, beech forest	6,884.9	244.8	3.6							10.3	10.3	100.0			
WF13, Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hīnau, podocarp forest	35,313.9	910.8	2.6				8,331.2	4,080.2	49.0	5,250.8	927.6	17.7			
WF14, Kāmahī, tawa, podocarp, hard beech forest							3,204.3	631.0	19.7						
WF2, Tōtara, mataī, ribbonwood forest	3,181.3	46.6	1.5							9.4	0.6	6.2			
WF4, Pōhutukawa, pūriri, broadleaved forest	2.8	0.0	0.0				1,781.4	2.9	0.2						
WF5, Tōtara, kānuka, broadleaved forest [Dune forest]	337.3	0.0	0.0												
WF7.2, Pūriri, taraire forest	522.0	10.9	2.1												
WF8, Kahikatea, pukatea forest	8,648.6	523.0	6.0				1,063.1	74.7	7.0	165.0	2.2	1.4			
WF8/WL, Kahikatea, pukatea forest and Swamp mosaic	3,844.1	58.2	1.5												
WF9, Taraire, tawa podocarp forest	10,012.1	521.9	5.2												
WL, Fen mosaic	5,143.9	2,324.3	45.2				32.1	0.0	0.0				115.5	19.0	16.4
WL, Swamp mosaic	9,191.2	3,031.8	33.0				7.5	3.5	47.1	31.3	27.3	87.3	99.3	14.9	15.0
WL, Swamp/fen mosaic	2,696.7	433.1	16.1												
WL18, Flaxland	0.6	29.3	4,611.4												
WL2, Mānuka, greater wire rush restiad rushland	3,188.4	3,170.4	99.4												

Vegetation/Habitat Type	Ecological District														
	Raglan			Ranginui			Rotorua			Tairua			Taumarunui		
	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining
CDF4-1, Hall's tōtara, pāhautea, kāmahī forest				729.5	655.9	89.9							263.9	263.9	100.0
CL1, Pōhutukawa treeland/flaxland/rockland	116.7	0.0	0.0							112.4	39.1	34.8			
CL2, Ngaio, taupata treeland/herbfield/rockland	0.0	28.2	N/A												
CLF5, Mataī, hall's tōtara, kāmahī forest													8.3	0.0	0.0
DN2, Spinifex, pīngao grassland/sedgeland	152.4	47.1	30.9							142.2	27.5	19.3			
DN2/5, Coastal sand dunes mosaic	0.0	254.5	N/A							0.0	38.2	N/A			
MF10, Tōtara, mataī, kahikatea forest				1,277.0	60.4	4.7	616.3	4.3	0.7						
MF11-3, Rimu, mataī forest													152.3	2.6	1.7
MF24, Rimu, tōwai forest										393.2	391.3	99.5			
MF25, Kauri, tōwai, rātā, montane podocarp forest										227.4	297.2	130.7			
MF4, Kahikatea forest				0.0	9.3	N/A							0.0	53.2	N/A
MF7.1, Tawa, mangeo forest				964.9	5.2	0.5	428.0	156.3	36.5						
MF7.2, Rātā, Tawa, kāmahī, podocarp forest				34,822.0	14,592.4	41.9	1,941.8	604.8	31.1				24,653.5	4,126.4	16.7
MF7.3, Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest				70,913.7	10,419.8	14.7							869.4	70.6	8.1
MF8.1, Kāmahī, broadleaved, podocarp forest				3.4	0.0	0.0	157.1	0.0	0.0				500.3	109.8	21.9
Open Water	69.1	0.1	0.2	748.7	2.6	0.3				190.0	4.3	2.3	1.1	0.2	14.4
SA1.1, Seagrass herbfield	359.2	9.3	2.6							133.9	0.0	0.0			
SA1.2, Mangrove forest and scrub	16.5	8.8	53.7							173.0	186.9	108.1			
SA1.3, Searush, oioi, rushland [Saltmarsh]	48.9	13.7	28.0							194.4	86.3	44.4			
Strand	11.2	60.4	537.6							21.4	3.8	17.8			
TI3, Monoao scrub/lichenfield							13.0	0.0	0.0						
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest	0.0	2,660.1	N/A	0.0	72.2	N/A	124.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,514.0	N/A			
WF11.1, Kauri, podocarp, taraire forest	4,847.8	74.5	1.5												
WF11.2, Kauri, podocarp, tawa forest	4,463.7	283.7	6.4							72,192.7	10,534.3	14.6			
WF12, Kauri, podocarp, broadleaved, beech forest	0.0	4.0	N/A							1,051.4	1,110.8	105.6			
WF13, Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hīnau, podocarp forest	96,780.7	11,498.4	11.9	500.1	0.0	0.0				4,366.9	2,889.3	66.2			
WF2, Tōtara, mataī, ribbonwood forest	77.4	14.0	18.1	69.1	0.1	0.2									
WF4, Pōhutukawa, pūriri, broadleaved forest	2,953.3	8.0	0.3							2,597.1	282.7	10.9			
WF5, Tōtara, kānuka, broadleaved forest [Dune forest]	268.7	0.0	0.0							994.5	17.6	1.8			
WF7.3, Kahikatea, pūriri forest	0.0	11.7	N/A							3,989.2	27.8	0.7			
WF8, Kahikatea, pukatea forest	2,849.6	511.4	17.9	2,442.4	13.1	0.5				2,510.9	5.8	0.2	89.8	0.0	0.0
WF8/WL, Kahikatea, pukatea forest and Swamp mosaic	0.0	0.4	0.0												
WF9, Taraire, tawa podocarp forest	18,579.1	1,848.4	9.9												
WL, Fen mosaic							2.7	2.0	73.4	29.6	16.9	57.0	2.8	0.0	0.0
WL, Swamp mosaic	513.4	75.7	14.8	271.2	38.1	14.0	10.1	0.2	1.8	49.3	9.6	19.4	44.4	4.2	9.5
WL, Swamp/fen mosaic	0.0	4.1	N/A							456.5	112.4	24.6			
WL18, Flaxland	0.0	9.7	N/A							0.0	3.8	N/A			

Vegetation/Habitat Type	Ecological Districts														
	Taupō			Tauranga			Te Aroha			Thames			Tokoroa		
	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining
CDF4-1, Hall's tōtara, pāhautea, kāmahī forest	3,314.8	2,501.8	75.5												
CDF4-4, Pink pine, pāhautea forest							496.6	490.0	98.7						
CDF6, <i>Olearia</i> , <i>Pseudopanax</i> , <i>Dracophyllum</i> scrub [Subalpine scrub]	0.0	5.8	N/A												
CDF7, Mountain beech, silver beech, montane podocarp forest							242.0	242.8	100.3						
CL1, Pōhutukawa treeland/flaxland/rockland										3.4	0.0	0.0			
CLF10, Red beech, silver beech forest	16,248.6	491.1	3.0												
CLF11, Silver beech forest	79.6	79.5	99.9				898.8	311.1	34.6						
CLF11-3, Silver beech, kāmahī forest							102.6	0.0	0.0						
CLF5, Mataī, hall's tōtara, kāmahī forest	2,733.2	344.3	12.6												
CLF9, Red beech, podocarp forest	11,002.7	3,613.6	32.8												
GT, Geothermal	92.0	51.9	56.4												
MF10, Tōtara, mataī, kahikatea forest	75,238.0	1,011.2	1.3										45,797.6	321.1	0.7
MF11, Rimu forest													25.5	23.8	93.3
MF11-3, Rimu, mataī forest	19,767.5	6,936.5	35.1												
MF20, Hard beech forest													501.6	141.6	28.2
MF22, Tawa, rimu, northern rātā, beech forest													489.9	390.0	79.6
MF24, Rimu, tōwai forest										5,238.7	4,639.4	88.6			
MF25, Kauri, tōwai, rātā, montane podocarp forest										556.6	911.0	163.7			
MF4, Kahikatea forest	914.6	19.8	2.2												
MF5, Black beech forest	2,354.3	144.8	6.1												
MF7.1, Tawa, mangeao forest							3,174.0	2,752.4	86.7				21,185.8	2,590.8	12.2
MF7.2, Rātā, tawa, kāmahī, podocarp forest	688.3	681.7	99.1				1,881.7	505.6	26.9				38,676.9	6,970.9	18.0
MF7.3, Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest													2,082.8	589.6	28.3
MF8.1, Kāmahī, broadleaved, podocarp forest	65,883.8	21,982.3	33.4										12.4	0.0	0.0
Open Water	61,616.3	3.8	0.0				2.2	0.0	0.0	57.8	1.8	3.0	414.2	3.0	0.7
Reclaimed										24.1	0.0	0.0			
SA1.1, Seagrass herbfield										8.9	0.0	0.0			
SA1.2, Mangrove forest and scrub										22.3	0.0	0.0			
SA1.3, Searush, oioi, rushland [Saltmarsh]										2.0	0.0	0.0			
Strand										3.7	0.0	0.0			
TI3, Monoao scrub/lichenfield	2,751.6	227.1	8.3												
TI3/TI5, Frostflat mosaic	39.8	66.7	167.6												
TI3/TI5/TI6, Frostflat mosaic	232.2	12,850.4	5,534.3												
TI5, Bog pine, mountain celery pine, silver pine scrub/forest	18.7	16.5	88.2												
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest	0.0	2,753.1	N/A				0.0	31.6	N/A	0.0	483.6	N/A	0.0	194.1	N/A
WF11.2, Kauri, podocarp, tawa forest				3.2	0.0	0.4	3,164.0	4,217.0	133.3	30,942.5	1,156.2	3.7			
WF12, Kauri, podocarp, broadleaved, beech forest							970.2	833.1	85.9	136.0	142.3	104.6			
WF13, Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hīnau, podocarp forest							4,441.4	1,800.3	40.5	1,820.2	887.8	48.8	208.3	0.0	0.0
WF4, Pōhutukawa, pūriri, broadleaved forest										870.0	198.3	22.8			
WF7.3, Kahikatea, pūriri forest										491.1	48.4	9.9			
WF8, Kahikatea, pukatea forest							0.0	3.4	N/A	563.2	0.0	0.0	466.4	21.3	4.6
WL, Fen mosaic	414.8	327.4	78.9												
WL, Swamp mosaic	1,565.4	873.6	55.8							0.0	9.8	N/A	277.8	180.3	64.9
WL, Swamp/fen mosaic	1,571.9	1,384.5	88.1												
WL11, <i>Machaerina</i> sedgeland	16.1	4.3	26.6												
WL14, Ephemeral wetland	0.4	0.4	100.0												
WL18, Flaxland	42.3	38.5	90.9										0.0	7.8	N/A
WL20, <i>Coprosma</i> , twiggy tree daisy scrub	95.9	119.2	124.2												

Vegetation/Habitat Types	Ecological Districts											
	Tongariro			Waihi			Waipā			Waitomo		
	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining
AH1, Gravelfield/stonefield [Fellfield]	14.9	800.0	5,356.7									
AH4, Woolly moss, bristle tussock, blue tussock mossfield/ tussockland/stonefield	11,649.4	4,373.5	37.5									
AL3, Red tussock tussockland/shrubland	1,077.3	5,213.7	484.0									
AL4, Mid-ribbed and broad-leaved snow tussock tussockland/shrubland	0.0	5,138.9	N/A									
BR1, Hard tussock, scabweed gravelfield/stonefield	10.8	1.9	17.7									
BR3, Bristle tussock, <i>Raoulia</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia</i> gravelfield/sandfield	269.0	60.7	22.6									
CDF3, Mountain beech forest	12,113.9	1,571.7	13.0									
CDF4-1, Hall's tōtara, pāhautea, kāmahī forest	4,702.3	2,447.6	52.1									
CDF6, <i>Olearia</i> , <i>Pseudopanax</i> , <i>Dracophyllum</i> scrub [Subalpine scrub]	3,948.1	3,921.5	99.3									
CL1, Pōhutukawa treeland/flaxland/rockland				64.6	7.1	10.9						
CL2, Ngaio, taupata treeland/herbfield/rockland				0.0	7.9	N/A						
CLF10, Red beech, silver beech forest	1,434.5	713.5	49.7									
CLF11, Silver beech forest	68.9	67.8	98.3									
CLF12, Silver beech, mountain beech forest	35.7	3.2	9.0									
CLF5, Mataī, Hall's tōtara, kāmahī forest	3,098.3	182.3	5.9									
CLF9, Red beech, podocarp forest	3,637.2	995.5	27.4									
CLF9-3, Red beech, mountain beech forest	218.6	197.1	90.2									
DN2/5, Coastal sand dunes mosaic				0.0	7.0	N/A						
GT, Geothermal	47.6	30.1	63.2									
Ice	277.8	0.0	0.0									
MF10, Tōtara, mataī, kahikatea forest	6,959.5	95.0	1.4									
MF11-3, Rimu, mataī forest	2,766.4	1,176.6	42.5									
MF21, Tawa, kāmahī, rimu, northern rātā, black beech forest									298.4	262.5	88.0	
MF24, Rimu, tōwai forest				1,840.0	1,803.6	98.0						
MF25, Kauri, tōwai, rātā, montane podocarp forest				226.7	193.6	85.4						
MF4, Kahikatea forest	34.2	22.2	64.8				0.0	0.3	N/A	0.0	54.7	N/A
MF7.1, Tawa mangeo forest							7,451.0	26.5	0.4			
MF7.2, Rātā, Tawa, kāmahī, podocarp forest				166.1	0.0	0.0				12,664.6	3,204.7	25.3
MF7.3, Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest							30,785.5	380.5	1.2	98,262.1	9,504.1	9.7
MF8.1, Kāmahī, broadleaved, podocarp forest	7,863.0	2,284.5	29.1									
Open Water	1,826.2	7.9	0.4	17.1	0.3	1.6	126.4	20.3	16.0	50.2	1.0	1.9
SA1.2, Mangrove forest and scrub				9.1	3.6	40.0						
SA1.3, Searush, oioi, rushland [Saltmarsh]				8.1	0.5	6.3						
Strand				7.6	1.1	14.4						
TI3, Monoao scrub/lichenfield	0.0	9.1	N/A									
TI6, Red tussock tussockland	26.2	25.8	98.7									
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest	0.0	557.0	0.0	0.0	113.8	N/A	0.0	10.2	N/A	0.0	55.7	N/A
WF11.2, Kauri, podocarp, tawa forest				31,824.2	6,962.7	21.9						
WF13, Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hīnau, podocarp forest				11,301.9	6,942.6	61.4	8,406.2	177.4	2.1	39,111.0	12,576.1	32.2
WF2, Tōtara, mataī, ribbonwood forest				0.0	19.7	0.0	942.6	0.8	0.1	863.6	22.5	2.6
WF4, Pōhutukawa, pūriri, broadleaved forest				741.7	152.1	20.5						
WF5, Tōtara, kānuka, broadleaved forest [Dune forest]				32.3	0.0	N/A						
WF7.3, Kahikatea, pūriri forest				268.2	0.0	0.0						
WF8, Kahikatea, pukatea forest				112.3	6.2	5.5	20,037.0	115.7	0.6	10,278.1	356.2	3.5
WL, Fen mosaic	165.7	150.1	90.6							2.5	0.0	0.0
WL, Swamp mosaic	234.7	191.6	81.6	213.4	0.5	0.2	161.4	20.3	12.6	1,116.5	169.1	15.1
WL, Swamp/fen mosaic	617.2	653.2	105.8	141.2	61.0	43.2	1,762.9	0.1	0.0			
WL11, <i>Machaerina</i> sedgeland	66.3	53.4	80.5									
WL16, Red tussock, <i>Schoenus pauciflorus</i> tussockland	21.1	21.1	100.0									
WL18, Flaxland				0.0	0.2	N/A						

Vegetation/Habitat Type	Entire Waikato Region		
	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining
AH1, Gravelfield/stonefield [Fellfield]	392.3	1,161.4	296.1
AH4, Woolly moss, bristle tussock, blue tussock mossfield/tussockland/stonefield	11,649.4	4,374.1	37.5
AL3, Red tussock tussockland/shrubland	2,803.4	6,910.5	246.5
AL4, Mid-ribbed and broad-leaved snow tussock tussockland/shrubland	3,594.8	9,334.6	259.7
BR1, Hard tussock, scabweed gravelfield/stonefield	212.9	51.1	24.0
BR3, Bristle tussock, <i>Raoulia</i> , <i>Muehlenbeckia</i> gravelfield/sandfield	269.0	60.7	22.6
CDF3, Mountain beech forest	21,504.0	9,971.1	46.4
CDF4-1, Hall's tōtara, pāhautea, kāmahī forest	21,173.3	11,989.7	56.6
CDF4-4, Pink pine, pāhautea forest	1,892.8	1,429.0	75.5
CDF6, <i>Olearia</i> , <i>Pseudopanax</i> , <i>Dracophyllum</i> scrub [Subalpine scrub]	4,031.4	4,659.9	115.6
CDF7, Mountain beech, silver beech, montane podocarp forest	242.0	242.8	100.3
CL1, Pōhutukawa treeland/flaxland/rockland	807.0	200.7	24.9
CL2, Ngaio, taupata treeland/herbfield/rockland	322.1	79.9	24.8
CLF10, Red beech, silver beech forest	30,686.3	3,493.0	11.4
CLF11, Silver beech forest	2,977.8	2,165.8	72.7
CLF11-3, Silver beech, kāmahī forest	102.6	0.0	0.0
CLF12, Silver beech, mountain beech forest	2,518.6	2,411.8	95.8
CLF5, Mataī, hall's tōtara, kāmahī forest	20,155.7	544.0	2.7
CLF9, Red beech, podocarp forest	21,200.1	10,235.3	48.3
CLF9-3, Red beech, mountain beech forest	3,069.3	3,024.1	98.5
DN2, Spinifex, pīngao grassland/sedgeland	680.2	233.7	34.4
DN2/5, Coastal sand dunes mosaic	222.1	697.6	314.2
DN5, Oioi, knobby clubrush sedgeland	1.4	0.0	0.0
GT, Geothermal	826.5	807.9	97.7
Ice	277.8	0.0	0.0
MF10, Tōtara, mataī, kahikatea forest	344,358.1	2,676.1	0.8
MF11, Rimu forest	157.9	66.2	42.0
MF11-3, Rimu, mataī forest	35,463.3	9,243.2	26.1
MF20, Hard beech forest	509.2	1,368.1	268.7
MF21, Tawa, kāmahī, rimu, northern rātā, black beech forest	4,749.8	3,819.7	80.4
MF22, Tawa, rimu, northern rātā, beech forest	575.7	425.8	74.0
MF24, Rimu, tōwai forest	8,892.8	7,933.8	89.2
MF25, Kauri, tōwai, rātā, montane podocarp forest	1,849.9	2,105.8	113.8
MF4, Kahikatea forest	4,650.0	159.5	3.4
MF4, Kahikatea forest and WL, Swamp mosaic	2,074.6	142.3	6.9
MF5, Black beech forest	2,354.3	144.8	6.1
MF7.1, Tawa, mangeao forest	165,646.0	14,470.7	8.7
MF7.2, Rātā, Tawa, kāmahī, podocarp forest	202,430.8	58,475.9	28.9
MF7.3, Tawa, pukatea, podocarp forest	228,149.4	37,925.7	16.6
MF8.1, Kāmahī, broadleaved, podocarp forest	165,647.3	31,777.7	19.2
Open Water	78,328.0	237.3	0.3
Reclaimed	24.5	0.0	0.0
SA1.1, Seagrass herbfield	1,393.7	17.5	1.3
SA1.2, Mangrove forest and scrub	556.9	344.0	61.8
SA1.3, Searush, oioi, rushland [Saltmarsh]	967.7	294.7	30.5
SA1.5, Shellfield (Chenier Plain)	9.4	3.2	33.4
SA1.6, Saltmarsh, ribbonwood, ngaio, akeake scrub	50.5	5.2	10.2
SC1, Gravelfield	2.9	0.0	0.0
Strand	52.4	191.8	366.0
TI3, Monoao scrub/lichenfield	95,490.7	583.8	0.6
TI3/TI5, Frostflat mosaic	39.8	66.8	167.9
TI3/TI5/TI6, Frostflat mosaic	340.8	21,059.2	6,179.3
TI4, <i>Coprosma</i> , <i>Olearia</i> scrub [Grey scrub]	1,802.0	0.0	0.0
TI5, Bog pine, mountain celery pine, silver pine scrub/forest	398.2	442.3	111.1
TI6, Red tussock tussockland	26.2	25.8	98.7
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest	744.4	19,542.5	2,625.3
VS2, Kānuka scrub/forest and VS5, Broadleaved species scrub/forest mosaic	121.2	0.0	0.0
VS8, Monoao scrub	7.4	0.0	0.0
WF11.1, Kauri, podocarp, taraire forest	7,984.1	76.1	1.0
WF11.2, Kauri, podocarp, tawa forest	209,977.4	34,727.1	16.5
WF12, Kauri, podocarp, broadleaved, beech forest	60,460.0	9,543.2	15.8
WF13, Tawa, kohekohe, rewarewa, hīnau, podocarp forest	528,964.0	109,499.7	20.7
WF14, Kāmahī, tawa, podocarp, hard beech forest	4,068.8	869.2	21.4
WF2, Tōtara, mataī, ribbonwood forest	55,365.0	328.9	0.6

Vegetation/Habitat Type	Entire Waikato Region		
	Potential Historical Extent	Current Extent	% Remaining
WF4, Pōhutukawa, pūriri, broadleaved forest	21,225.0	1,690.7	8.0
WF5, Tōtara, kānuka, broadleaved forest [Dune forest]	8,146.7	313.4	3.8
WF7.1, Pūriri forest	296.3	0.0	0.0
WF7.2, Pūriri, taraire forest	6,678.2	627.1	9.4
WF7.3, Kahikatea, pūriri forest	6,955.4	100.0	1.4
WF8, Kahikatea, pukatea forest	177,396.3	2,580.9	1.5
WF8/WL, Kahikatea, pukatea forest and Swamp mosaic	8,904.3	62.7	0.7
WF9, Taraire, tawa podocarp forest	32,284.7	2,646.0	8.2
WL, Bog/fen mosaic	488.5	0.6	0.1
WL, Fen mosaic	7,177.4	2,979.6	41.5
WL, Swamp mosaic	19,103.1	7,769.7	40.7
WL, Swamp/fen mosaic	10,981.1	2,765.1	25.2
WL11, <i>Machaerina</i> sedgeland	82.4	57.7	70.0
WL14, Ephemeral Wetland	1.9	0.4	22.3
WL16, Red tussock, <i>Schoenus pauciflorus</i> tussockland	21.1	21.1	100.0
WL18, Flaxland	60.6	143.7	237.2
WL2, Mānuka, greater wire rush restiad rushland	11,956.5	3,484.8	29.1
WL2/3, Bog Mosaic	47,335.0	319.4	0.7
WL20, <i>Coprosma</i> , twiggy tree daisy scrub	95.9	119.2	124.2
WL22, <i>Carex</i> , <i>Schoenus pauciflorus</i> sedgeland	2.6	0.0	0.0
WL3, Bamboo rush, greater wire rush restiad rushland	13,500.1	9,291.7	68.8

Appendix 2. Guidelines for interpretation of key terms which underpin assessment of significant natural areas (excerpt from the exposure draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2022).

Four key concepts underpin the nationally accepted approach for assessing areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna:

- Representativeness
- Diversity and Pattern
- Rarity and Distinctiveness
- Ecological Context

A site is considered to be a Significant Natural Area if it meets any one of the attributes of the four criteria listed above. Guidance for determining whether a site meets an appropriate ecological threshold for each of these concepts is given below.

Representativeness

The extent to which the vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna is typical or characteristic of the indigenous biodiversity of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area.

Guidance

Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna that would be expected to occur at undeveloped sites in the ecological district or marine biogeographic area in the present-day environment (e.g., landform, soils, substrate, climate), including seral (regenerating) indigenous vegetation. Representativeness includes commonplace vegetation/habitats, which is where most indigenous biodiversity is present, and may also include degraded indigenous vegetation, ecosystems, or habitats that are typical of what remains in depleted ecological districts. It is not restricted to the best or most representative examples. And, it is not a measure of how well that vegetation or habitat is protected elsewhere in the ecological district.

Assessment

Significant vegetation has structure and composition (biodiversity and integrity) typical of the indigenous vegetation of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area in the present-day environment. This includes seral or regenerating vegetation that is recovering following natural or induced disturbance, provided species composition is typical of that type of vegetation. Significant fauna habitat is that which supports the typical suite of indigenous animals that would occur in the present-day environment. The application of this criterion should result in identification of indigenous vegetation and habitats that are representative of the full range and extent of ecological diversity across all environmental gradients in an ecological district, such as climate, altitude, landform, and soil sequences. The ecological character and pattern of the indigenous vegetation in the ecological district should be described by reference to the types of indigenous vegetation and the landforms on which it occurs.

Site attributes

Sites that qualify under this criterion will have at least one of the following attributes:

- Vegetation which has structure and composition (biodiversity and integrity) that is typical of the indigenous vegetation of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area;
- Habitat that supports a typical suite of indigenous fauna that is characteristic of the habitat type in the relevant ecological district, and retains at least a moderate range of species expected for that habitat type in the ecological district;

- Vegetation which has modified structure and/or composition (biodiversity) but is still typical of the indigenous vegetation of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area;

For the avoidance of doubt, indigenous vegetation or habitat that is not typical of the indigenous vegetation or habitat of the ecological district or marine biogeographic area will not qualify as a significant natural area under this criterion.

Diversity and Pattern

Diversity and pattern is the extent to which the expected range of diversity and pattern of biological and physical components within the relevant ecological district is present in an area.

Guidance

Diversity has biological components, such as species/taxa, communities, and ecological variation. It also has physical components, such as geology, soils/substrate, aspect/exposure, altitude/depth, temperature, salinity, turbidity, and waves/currents. Pattern includes changes along environmental gradients, such as ecotones and ecological sequences. Some communities or habitats are uniform, with naturally low species diversity; that attribute is assessed under the representativeness criterion.

Assessment

Significance is the extent to which the biological range and environmental variation at a site reflects that present in the ecological district. Sites that have a wider range of species, habitats, or communities, or wider environmental variation due to ecotones, gradients, and sequences, rate more highly under this criterion.

Site attributes

Sites that qualify under this criterion will have at least one of the following attributes:

- A high diversity of indigenous species, habitats or communities, and/or presence of important ecotones, or complete ecological gradients or sequences.
- A moderate diversity of indigenous species, habitats or communities, and/or presence of ecotones, or partial ecological gradients or sequences.

For the avoidance of doubt, a site with low diversity of indigenous species, habitats or communities, and lack of ecotones, gradients or sequences will not qualify as a significant natural area under this criterion.

Rarity and Distinctiveness

The presence of rare or distinctive indigenous taxa, habitats of indigenous fauna, indigenous vegetation or ecosystems.

Guidance

Rarity is the scarcity (natural or induced) of indigenous species, habitats, vegetation, or ecosystems. Rarity includes things that are uncommon, and things that are threatened. 'Threatened' and 'At Risk' (including 'Naturally Uncommon') species at a national scale are listed in publications prepared and regularly updated by the Department of Conservation. Rarity at a regional or local scale is defined by local lists or determined by expert ecological advice. Further effort is needed to prepare regional and local lists, especially for fauna. The significance of nationally-listed Threatened or At Risk species should not be downgraded if they are common within a region or ecological district.

Historically rare (or naturally uncommon) terrestrial ecosystems are defined and listed by Williams *et al.* (2007). These ecosystems, along with wetlands and sand dunes, are proposed as a priority for protection on private land by the Ministry for the Environment (2007).

Two national frameworks that are available for the assessment of depletion of terrestrial indigenous vegetation or ecosystems are in common use: Ecological Districts, as defined by McEwen (1987); and Land Environments, as defined by Leathwick *et al.* (2003). Rarity of indigenous vegetation in each Land Environment has been assessed by Walker *et al.* (2006) and Cieraad *et al.* (2015). Land Environment data should be interpreted with caution. These are based on physical attributes which may not accurately reflect vegetation (or habitat) patterns at a local scale.

Distinctiveness includes distribution limits, type localities, local endemism, relict distributions, and special ecological or scientific features.

Assessment

An area that qualifies as an SNA under this criterion has at least one of the following attributes:

- Provides habitat for an indigenous species that is listed as 'Threatened', 'At Risk' (as defined by national threat classification system lists);
- Regionally or locally uncommon indigenous species, habitats, vegetation or ecosystems;
- Indigenous vegetation depleted to less than 20 per cent of its pre-human extent in the ecological district, region, or land environment;
- Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna occurring on naturally uncommon ecosystems;
- An indigenous species or plant community at, or near, its natural distributional limit;
- The type locality of an indigenous species;
- The presence of a distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species;
- The presence of a special ecological or scientific feature.

Application of most recent published lists of the threat status for any growth form or life form should be guided by expert ecological advice. Species within the Myrtaceae family that are relatively common in many areas (kānuka, mānuka, and rātā species) are listed as 'Threatened' or 'At Risk', due to the threat posed by myrtle rust. These species are listed with the qualifiers DP (data poor) and De (taxa) that do not fit the criteria so are designated to the most appropriate listing.

With respect to fauna habitat, professional ecological judgement should be used when assessing significance. For example:

- Comparing a golf course that has the occasional presence of a mobile 'Threatened' species (e.g., black stilt), with a shrubland that has the presence of a relatively sedentary 'At Risk' species (e.g., southern grass skink). The golf course should not be rated as significant habitat; whereas the shrubland should.
- Comparing the significance of fauna habitat in non-indigenous vegetation. The sighting of a single North Island kākā in a stand of pines does not make the stand of pines significant. However, a proven bat roost within a pine tree may confer significance for this criterion.

Site attributes

Sites that qualify under this criterion will have any of the following attributes:

- Provides habitat for a nationally 'Threatened', or several 'At Risk', indigenous plant or animal species;
- An indigenous species or plant community at its distributional limit;
- Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna, or ecosystem, that has been reduced to less than 10 per cent of its former extent in the ecological district or land environment;
- Indigenous vegetation/habitat occurring on sand dunes, wetlands, or estuaries;
- Biogenic habitats in the marine environment;
- Indigenous vegetation/habitat occurring on 'originally rare' ecosystem types;
- Provides habitat for an 'At Risk', 'Data Deficient', regionally uncommon, or locally uncommon indigenous plant or animal species;
- An indigenous species or plant community near its distributional limit;
- Indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna, or ecosystem, that has been reduced to between 10 and 20 per cent of its former extent in the ecological district or land environment;
- The presence of a distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species, or special ecological or scientific feature.

For the avoidance of doubt, sites with the following attributes do not qualify as significant natural areas under this criterion:

- Supports no 'Threatened', 'At Risk', 'Data Deficient', regionally or locally uncommon indigenous species, and no indigenous species near distribution limits;

- Is not indigenous vegetation/habitat on sand dunes, wetlands, estuaries or 'originally rare' ecosystems;
- Is not indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna that has been reduced to less than 20 per cent of its former extent in the ecological district or land environment;
- Has no distinctive assemblage or community of indigenous species, or special ecological or scientific features.

Ecological context

The extent to which the size, shape, and position of an area within the wider landscape (land, fresh water or marine) contributes to its ability to maintain indigenous biodiversity or affects the ability of the surrounding landscape to maintain its indigenous biodiversity.

Guidance

Ecological context has two main attributes: the characteristics that help maintain indigenous biodiversity at the site (such as size, shape, and configuration); and the contribution the site makes to protection of indigenous biodiversity in the wider landscape (such as by linking or buffering other sites, providing 'stepping stones' of habitat, or maintaining ecological and hydrological processes and integrity).

Assessment

Higher value is placed on sites that: have features that help maintain indigenous biodiversity at the site (such as size, shape, configuration or buffering); support large numbers of, or provide important habitat for, indigenous fauna; provide a buffer to, or link between, other significant areas; or play an important role in the biological/natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/marine system.

Attributes

Sites that qualify under this criterion will have at least one of the following attributes:

- At least moderate size with a compact shape, in the context of the relevant ecological district;
- Is well-buffered relative to remaining habitats in the relevant ecological district;
- A site that provides an important full or partial buffer to, or link between, one or more important habitat of indigenous fauna or significant natural areas and/or is important for the natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/marine system;
- Is important for the natural functioning of an ecosystem relative to remaining habitats in the ecological district;

For the avoidance of doubt, sites with the following attributes do not qualify as significant natural areas under this criterion:

- A small and/or poorly-buffered site;
- A site that does not buffer or link other sites, and is unimportant for the natural functioning of a freshwater or coastal/marine system.

Appendix 3. Significance assessment guidelines from Whaley *et al.* 1995.

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The concept of dividing New Zealand into Ecological Districts was first introduced by Nicholls (1979) and later detailed by Simpson (1982), as a framework for organising, recording and retrieving ecological information. The Districts were delineated subjectively using forums and workshops to reach consensus among New Zealand's ecologists, with the aim of defining units of consistent internal ecological character.

New Zealand was initially divided into 235 provisional Ecological Districts (Simpson 1982), which has since been revised to 268 (McEwen 1987). Defined on the basis of geology, landform, climate, soil and flora, with boundaries located according to topographical, biological, and geological discontinuities, rivers, and catchment boundaries, they are "ecologically homogeneous or possess a simple or repeating system of ecosystems" (Simpson 1982). The 85 (originally 82) Ecological Regions (McEwen 1987) are "aggregations of adjacent related districts, or are highly distinctive for some specific reason. Ecological Districts that could not be aggregated with another became Ecological Regions in their own right, e.g., Rangitikei Ecological Region (Simpson 1982)".

Criteria. A set of seven criteria was designed, to fulfill the goals outlined above. They have been used to evaluate the 'significance' of natural areas, and to select RAP's (Recommended Areas for Protection) within the PNAP (Myers *et al.* 1987). The criteria are applied within the boundaries of each of the 268 Ecological Districts (McEwen 1987). That is, every natural area surveyed within each ecological district is assessed in the context of the existing Protected Natural Areas system of that district, and those other unprotected natural areas remaining. The PNAP criteria are a synthesis of criteria used in other ranking systems, before its conception. They are:

- (1.) Representativeness
- (2.) Diversity and pattern
- (3.) Rarity and special features
- (4.) Naturalness
- (5.) Long-term viability
- (6.) Size and shape
- (7.) Buffering

1. Representativeness is a central concept of modern nature conservation programmes worldwide (O'Connor *et al.* 1990), and is the "conceptual backbone" and primary criterion of the PNAP (Kelly & Park 1986), arising directly from the Reserves Act (1977). It recognises the importance of natural areas with features typical of the Ecological District in which they lie; e.g., characteristic species and communities of the original natural landscape of the area.

There are several different layers to this criterion. Natural areas are given a representativeness value on the basis of a) the extent of the original/typical vegetation

and landscape of the District, and b) the extent and quality of the remaining natural areas. The degree of representation within the reserves network of the Ecological District is also considered.

The point of reference for the 'original' natural landscape is important and should be established. Because of modification by Polynesian settlers and in the absence of a reliable written record, the pre-European (i.e., 1840) datum is commonly used (Smale 1994).

Although representativeness is not a readily quantifiable parameter (O'Connor *et al.* 1990), comparisons can be made between sites (Myers *et al.* 1987) using a grading system, e.g., low-high.

2. Diversity is commonly the major criterion upon which environmental impact statements and ecological assessments are based (O'Connor *et al.* 1990). In the context of the PNAP, diversity refers to the natural diversity of ecological units, ecosystems, and physical features within a natural area (Myers *et al.* 1987). Diversity of floristic associations within each ecological unit and species richness are also taken into account. Pattern relates to the gradients - biological, successional, drainage, altitudinal, salinity, etc. that exist within a natural area.

3. Rarity is more difficult to define. Often rarity refers to individual species, but it can apply equally to a community, ecological unit, or landform. In the context of the PNAP, rarity refers to paucity of numbers or occurrences of elements of natural diversity (e.g., species, communities). This is particularly pertinent when considering the high level of endemism in the New Zealand biota. The presence of rare species tends to impart high value to natural areas. Special features include elements of high endemism, species limits of distribution, ecotones, mosaics, and sequences, etc. (Myers *et al.* 1987). Rare and special features are assessed, in increasing order of importance, at the district, regional or national level (Regnier *et al.* 1988).

4. Naturalness is valued because natural systems are complexes that when modified tend to lose their integrity and, in particular, their vulnerable species (Peterken 1974). Reduced naturalness may be evidenced by physical modifications to community structure and species composition, invasion of exotic species, loss of sensitive or intolerant species, and increases of 'aggressive' native plants (O'Connor *et al.* 1990). To define an area's naturalness, a point of reference must first be defined, i.e., pre-Maori or pre-European (1840s). In most Ecological Districts even the most pristine ecosystems have had some sort of modifying influences. The measure of naturalness is therefore relative to both what remains within each Ecological District, and the point of reference being used.

5. Long-term viability refers to an area's inherent ability to maintain itself in the long term, in the absence of any active management (Myers *et al.* 1987), and resist direct and to indirect human effects (Humphreys & Tyler 1990). Many valuable New Zealand

ecosystems have low resilience to external perturbation and, therefore, the long-term viability criterion has much relevance to nature conservation in New Zealand (O'Connor *et al.* 1990).

The last two criteria are not in themselves ecological, but have important effects on the others. They involve well established principles of reserve design, which have been discussed in depth elsewhere (e.g., McIntyre *et al.* 1984).

6. Size and shape effect the long-term viability of species, communities, and ecosystems as well as the amount of diversity (Smale 1994). This criterion gives natural areas a rank based on their ability to maintain themselves, given internal disturbance dynamics and processes (Myers *et al.* 1987). Large, compactly shaped natural areas tend to be better buffered against human disturbance, natural disaster, and pressures from the surrounding landscape, and have a smaller proportion of 'edge' habitats (Whitcomb *et al.* 1976).

7. Buffering is the degree of protection an area has from outside modifying influences, given by natural features or, in some instances, fences or other artificial structures (Myers *et al.* 1987). The extent to which an area is buffered has important consequences for its long-term effective functioning. This criterion also includes an assessment of the relationship an area has with its surrounding landscape.

Other management-oriented criteria are applied to each natural area, during the final evaluation process, including fragility and threat. Fragility measures the inherent vulnerability of the natural area to environmental change, and threat assesses those factors which could "disturb existing equilibrium" (Humphreys & Tyler 1990).

The original PNA survey guidebook outlined additional criteria that might be used, but these were not initially evaluated in RAP selection (Myers *et al.* 1987). Additional evaluation criteria have been added by subsequent survey teams. For example, in the Pukeamaru Ecological District and Coromandel Region survey reports management input was included (Regnier *et al.* 1988, Humphreys & Tyler 1990). Management input considers the human cost of maintaining the inherent viability of a natural area in perpetuity; e.g. fencing, exotic animal and plant control, restoration, and replanting.

In the evaluation process, some of the criteria are integrated to give measures like representative quality (naturalness, size and buffering). Within each evaluated criterion, values are assigned, enabling the natural areas in each district to be ranked (refer to Appendix 2). The evaluation procedures have also evolved and been modified since the programme's conception. The weighting of some criteria has varied from Ecological District to Ecological District, depending on factors like the amount of indigenous vegetation remaining, the extent of modification of the district, and the number of areas in the District already under formal protection.

Appendix 4. Confidence rating for site evaluations and significance rankings

Confidence Rating	Definition
High	<p>High level of confidence in assessment.</p> <p>Ecological information about the site is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive • Reliable • Applicable and/or recent • Site specific <p>Sites with a high confidence rating include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively large, well-studied, protected areas, e.g. Whareorino Forest • Protected areas that are well-known as habitats for threatened species, e.g. Māhoenui Giant Wētā Scientific Reserve, Mapara Scenic Reserve (a habitat for kōkako). • Unprotected sites that have been identified as recommended areas for protection in a protected natural area survey. • Other sites that have been the subject of fauna and/or flora surveys and the information is comprehensive, reliable, recent and site-specific. <p>Sites with a high confidence ranking have a low requirement for field survey.</p>
Medium	<p>Moderate level of confidence in assessment.</p> <p>Ecological information about the site is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively comprehensive • Reliable • Not entirely applicable/recent • More likely to be general than site-specific, e.g. the information applies to a larger tract of indigenous vegetation, of which the site is a relatively small part. <p>Sites with a moderate confidence rating include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites where the assessment is based on ecological information that does not meet all of the criteria for a high confidence ranking. • Sites that are contiguous with a site that has a high confidence ranking, and information about the contiguous site is assumed to be applicable to the site that is being assessed. • Sites that have been assessed as nationally or regionally significant on the basis of a record of a single species (such as whitehead or falcon) without meeting other criteria for national or regional significance. • Sites for which incomplete ecological information exists, and for which targeted surveys may result in records of threatened species. <p>Sites with a medium confidence ranking have a requirement for field survey.</p>
Low	<p>Low level of confidence in the assessment.</p> <p>Ecological information about the site is not available or is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not comprehensive • Unreliable • Out-dated • General <p>Sites with a low confidence rating include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very small protected sites e.g. marginal strips. • Unprotected sites within ecological districts where a protected natural area survey has not been undertaken. • Sites that have met criteria for national significance, solely on the basis of a record of a species (e.g. kiwi, kōkako) that is probably extinct at the site. <p>Sites with a low confidence ranking have a high requirement for field survey.</p>