

Chapter 19. Conservation Site Rules

Guide to Rules

NOTE: The following table is intended as a guide only and does not form part of the District Plan. Refer to specified rules for detailed requirements.

P refers to Permitted Activities, C to Controlled Activities, DR to Discretionary Activities (Restricted) and DU to Discretionary Activities (Unrestricted).

Uses/Activities	Rule	P	C	DR	DU
Conservation activities	19.1.1	•			
Fencing to a maximum height of two metres	19.1.2	•			
Upgrade and maintenance of existing formed roads	19.1.4	•			
Modification, damage, removal of exotic vegetation subject to conditions	19.1.6	•			
Modification, damage, removal of exotic vegetation not being a Permitted Activity	19.2.1		•		
Modification, damage, removal of indigenous vegetation subject to conditions	19.1.7	•			
Modification, damage, removal of indigenous vegetation not being a Permitted Activity	19.3.3			•	
The formation and construction of vehicle parking areas	19.3.2			•	
Any non conservation activity not otherwise provided for	19.4.1				•
Buildings/Structures	Rule	P	C	DR	DU
Any building or structure (other than fences under 19.1.2)	19.4.1				•
Signs subject to conditions	19.1.3	•			
Signs not being Permitted Activities	19.3.1			•	
Heritage	Rule	P	C	DR	DU
Activities affecting listed heritage items	21.0	•	•		•
Utilities	Rule	P	C	DR	DU
Utilities	23.0	•	•	•	•
Earthworks	Rule	P	C	DR	DU
Earthworks	30.0	•		•	•

Activities and uses on publicly owned Conservation Sites require permission (such as a lease or a licence) from the administering authority. Activities and uses on private land require permission from the landowner.

19 CONSERVATION SITE RULES

[The following rules apply in the Conservation Sites. Rules for Earthworks (Chapter 30), Contaminated Land (Chapter 32) and Heritage (Chapter 21) may also apply.

- The sign rules in Chapter 21D apply for all signs on sites where a listed heritage building or object is located (except for individual sites on which listed heritage buildings or objects are located that are also separate heritage areas).
- The subdivision rules in Chapter 21A apply for any subdivision of a site on which a listed heritage building or object is located.
- The subdivision rules in Chapter 21B apply for any subdivision of a site in a listed Heritage Area.] PC43

Permitted Activities

The following activities are Permitted Activities in Conservation Sites provided that they comply with any specified conditions.

19.1.1 Conservation activities are Permitted Activities.

19.1.2 Fencing to a maximum height of 2 metres.

Fencing in Conservation Sites is provided for as a Permitted Activity. Fencing, for the purpose of excluding stock in particular, is an important conservation activity.

19.1.3 Signs are Permitted Activities provided that they comply with the following conditions:

19.1.3.1 For permanent signs:

- there shall be only one sign at each entrance to the Conservation Site
- signs at the entrance may have a maximum area of 1m², except for interpretative or directional signs that relate to the Conservation Site which may have a maximum area of 4m² and a maximum height of 4m
- notwithstanding the above, other signs for direction and interpretation shall have a maximum size of 0.1m².

19.1.3.2 For temporary signs:

- the maximum area must not exceed 6m²
- the maximum height must not exceed 5m
- signs must not be erected more than 28 days before and must be removed within 7 days of the completion of the purpose or event for which the sign was erected.

19.1.4 Any activity relating to the upgrade and maintenance of existing formed roads [and public accessways including associated earthworks] ^{PC70}, except the construction of new legal road is a Permitted Activity.

[Archaeological sites associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 are protected by the Historic Places Act 1993. An archaeological authority will be required from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust to destroy damage or modify these sites.] PC70

Rule 19.1.5 has been deleted by Plan Change 70

19.1.6 Except within Conservation Site 3B, the modification, damage, removal or destruction of exotic vegetation is a Permitted Activity provided that such activity involves the clearance of less than 100m² in any 1 calendar year and where such vegetation is greater than 5 metres high.

19.1.7 The modification, damage, removal or destruction of indigenous vegetation is permitted subject to meeting any one of the following conditions:

19.1.7.1 The vegetation is on land held subject to the Conservation Act 1987 or any Act listed in the First Schedule to that Act.

19.1.7.2 The vegetation is wind thrown trees, standing dead trees that have died as a result of natural causes, or vegetation that has become dangerous to human life or property as a result of natural causes.

19.1.7.3 The activity does not involve modification, damage, removal or destruction of vegetation in the Conservation Site totalling more than 100m² during any 5 calendar year period.

19.1.7.4 The activity is associated with the creation and maintenance of pedestrian tracks not exceeding 1.5 metres in width.

19.1.7.5 The activity involves pruning around existing structures including utility structures.

The protection of ecological values is the primary purpose of identifying areas as Conservation Sites in the Plan. Activities affecting indigenous vegetation are permitted where that land is subject to protected area legislation such as the Reserves Act 1977. Activities involving indigenous vegetation are already addressed by protected area legislation and further control is considered unnecessary. Some small scale damage or modification of existing vegetation is permitted as activities on this scale are unlikely to adversely affect the ecological values of a site and are often essential for safety reasons.

19.2 Controlled Activities

Section 19.2 describes which activities are Controlled Activities in Conservation Sites. A resource consent will be required but consent can not be refused. Conditions may be imposed relating to the matters specified in rule 19.2.1. The decision on whether or not a resource consent application will be notified will be made in accordance with the provisions on notification in the Act.

19.2.1	The modification, damage, removal or destruction of exotic vegetation not provided for as a Permitted Activity is a Controlled Activity in respect of:
19.2.1.1	the area or extent of vegetation to be affected
19.2.1.2	the species, age and condition of the vegetation to be affected.

Non-notification

The written approval of affected persons will not be necessary in respect of items 19.2.1.1 and 19.2.1.2. [Notice of applications need not be served on affected persons]^{PC28} and applications need not be notified.

Assessment Criteria

In determining the conditions to be imposed, if any, the Council will have regard to the following criteria:

19.2.1.3	The significance of the affected vegetation in terms of ecological and amenity values.
19.2.1.4	Whether it is necessary to remove vegetation to maintain or enhance the Conservation Site.

19.3 Discretionary Activities (Restricted)

Section 19.3 details those activities which are Discretionary Activities (Restricted) in Conservation Sites. Consent may be refused or granted subject to conditions. Grounds for refusal and conditions will be restricted to the matters specified in rules 19.3.1 - 19.3.3. The decision on whether or not a resource consent application will be notified will be made in accordance with the provisions on notification in the Act.

19.3.1	Signs not provided for as Permitted Activities are Discretionary Activities (Restricted) in respect of:
19.3.1.1	the height and area of signs.

Non-notification

The written approval of affected persons will not be necessary in respect of item 19.3.1.1. [Notice of applications need not be served on affected persons]^{PC28} and applications need not be notified.

Standards and Terms

Except for the matters specified in rule 19.3.1 this activity must comply with all the conditions specified for activities in rules 19.1.1 and 19.1.2.

The area and height of signs must not be exceeded by more than 50 percent.

Assessment Criteria

In determining whether to grant consent and what conditions, if any, to impose, Council will have regard to the following criteria:

19.3.1.2	Whether the area or height of signs is compatible with the visual character of the Conservation Site.
19.3.1.3	Whether the sign's content relates to the ecological values or the public enjoyment of the site.

In some circumstances larger signs may be required to identify activities or particular attributes of the site. In such cases, signs will be carefully assessed to ensure that visual amenities are maintained.

19.3.2	The formation and construction of vehicle parking areas is a Discretionary Activity (Restricted) in respect of:
19.3.2.1	the generation of vehicular traffic
19.3.2.2	the adverse effect on ecological or amenity values.

Non-notification

Applications involving provision of fewer than 5 carparks will not require the written approval of affected persons, [notice of applications need not be served on affected persons]^{PC28} and applications need not be notified.

Standards and Terms

A traffic report must be supplied which addresses:

- details of the parking to be provided on and off the site, and its intended use (whether it is intended for staff or visitors)
- site access
- internal traffic circulation
- what effect the extra traffic will have on local streets
- accessibility of the site by modes other than private transport.

Assessment Criteria

In determining whether to grant consent and what conditions, if any, to impose, Council will have regard to the following criteria:

19.3.2.3	Whether the proposed development will cause congestion or affect the safe or efficient movement of traffic on streets in the vicinity of the Conservation Site.
19.3.2.4	How accessible the site is by modes other than private vehicles.
19.3.2.5	The extent to which the ecological and amenity values of the site are adversely affected.

The provision of carparking in Conservation Sites may have adverse effects on the ecological values of sites. Activities in Conservation Sites may also generate vehicular traffic which could cause congestion or affect the safe or efficient movement of traffic on the street.

19.3.3	The modification, damage, removal or destruction of indigenous vegetation not provided for as a Permitted Activity
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is a Discretionary Activity (Restricted) in respect of:

- 19.3.3.1** the area or extent of vegetation to be affected
- 19.3.3.2** the species, age and condition of the vegetation to be affected.

Non-notification

The written approval of affected parties will not be necessary in respect of items 19.3.3.1 and 19.3.3.2. [Notice of applications need not be served on affected persons]^{PC28} and applications need not be notified.

Assessment Criteria

In determining whether to grant consent and what conditions, if any, to impose, Council will have regard to the following criteria:

- 19.3.3.2.1 The significance of the affected vegetation in terms of ecological and amenity values.
- 19.3.3.2.2 The relationship of the affected vegetation with other areas of indigenous vegetation.
- 19.3.3.2.3 Whether it is necessary to remove vegetation to maintain or enhance the Conservation Site.

The protection of the ecological values of Conservation Sites is the primary purpose of identifying areas as such in the Plan. Proposals to modify, damage, remove or destroy indigenous vegetation in Conservation Sites should be assessed.

19.4 Discretionary Activities (Unrestricted)

The following are Discretionary Activities (Unrestricted) in Conservation Sites. The decision on whether or not a resource consent application will be notified will be made in accordance with the provisions on notification in the Act.

- 19.4.1** Any activity which is not a conservation activity and which is not otherwise specified as a Permitted, Controlled or Discretionary (Restricted) Activity, and any building or structure (except fences less than 2 metres in height) is a Discretionary Activity (Unrestricted).

Assessment Criteria

In determining whether to grant consent and what conditions, if any, to impose, Council will have regard to the following criteria:

- 19.4.1.1 The need for the activity or structure for the maintenance or enhancement of the ecological values of the site.
- 19.4.1.2 The extent to which the ecological values of the site are adversely affected.
- 19.4.1.3 The effect of the activity, building or structure on adjoining areas.
- 19.4.1.4 Any relevant provisions of any of the following:
- Reserves Act 1977 and any amendments to that Act
 - Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Act 1977 and any amendments to that Act
 - any management plan prepared for the site.
- 19.4.1.5 The extent to which any activity, building or structure would impact on prominent or visually sensitive situations, including the coastal marine area, [identified] ^{PC33} ridgelines [and hilltops] ^{PC33}, cliffs, escarpments and waterbodies. [Where located within identified ridgelines and hilltops, the extent that buildings and structures are sited and designed in ways that avoid being visually obtrusive by:
- ensuring that buildings and structures do not appear to encroach onto the upper most slopes and summit of the ridgeline or hilltop
 - minimising skyline effects by ensuring that buildings and structures will be seen against a landform backdrop when viewed from district wide, community wide and neighbouring land
 - ensuring that the visibility of buildings, structures and earthworks is mitigated by appropriate siting and design, and planting and/or screening when viewed from district wide, community wide and neighbouring land]^{PC33}
- 19.4.1.6 The extent to which the structure or activity affects current or future access to the site and the amenity values of the site.
- [19.4.1.7 Where a structure or building is located within a Hazard (Fault Line) Area, the degree to which measures have been adopted to mitigate the potential adverse effects from a fault rupture event.]^{PC22}

Conservation Sites identify part of our natural heritage and therefore Council wishes to protect the ecological values associated with Conservation Sites. In general, non-conservation activities will be assessed as Discretionary (Unrestricted) Activities. However, some non-conservation activities are otherwise provided for as Permitted, Controlled, or Discretionary (Restricted) Activities. The construction, alteration of, and addition to all buildings and structures, except permitted fences are also Discretionary (Unrestricted). These activities will be closely scrutinised to ensure that they do not undermine the ecological significance of the site, or unduly affect access or other values of the site or adjoining areas.

Rule 19.4.2 has been deleted by Plan Change 70

19.5 Non-Complying Activities

Activities that contravene a rule in the Plan and which have not been provided for as Discretionary Activities (Restricted) or Discretionary Activities (Unrestricted) are Non-Complying Activities. Resource consents will be assessed in terms of section 105(2A)(b) of the Act.

The decision on whether or not a resource consent application will be notified will be made in accordance with the provisions on notification in the Act.

Conservation Sites

For descriptive purposes the Conservation Sites in the Wellington City Council area are divided into five groups. The groupings allow the addition of further sites without disrupting the numbered lists. They are as follows:

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- Group1. Northern Urban area, North west of the line of the Wellington Fault. Includes Karori, excludes Tawa.
- Group2. Southern Urban area, South east of the line of the Wellington fault, includes the Miramar Peninsula.
- Group3. Southern non-urban area, bordered by Karori stream to the West, the South western coastline and the urban edge to the North and East.
- Group4. Western non-urban area, bordered by Karori stream to the East, the South western coastline and Makara Road to the North.
- Group5. Northern area, bordered by Makara road to the South, the urban boundary to the East, the Western coastline, the Hutt Rd/SH2 and the Wellington City Council boundary to the North.

Each Conservation Site is given its relevant grouping number and a sequential letter. This is the identifying label contained within the District Plan. For example the Makara Estuary is site 5A.

- Group1: Trelissick Park: 1A
 Tyers Stream Reserve: 1B
 Kaiwharawhara Stream Conservation Site: 1C
- Group2: Maupuia Park: 2A
 Tapu Te Ranga Island 2B
 Fort Dorset: 2C
 Tarakena Bay: 2D
 Moa Point: 2E
 Houghton Bay: 2F
 Owhiro Bay: 2G
 Tawatawa Ridge: 2H
 Tapu Te Ranga Marae: 2I
 Part of Te Kopahou Reserve: 2J
- Group3: Wellington South Coast: 3A
 Karori Reservoir: 3B
 Polhill and Waimapihi Gullies: 3C
- Group4: South west Coastline: 4A
 Telecom Village Bush: 4B
 Warrens Bush: 4C
- Group5: Makara Estuary: 5A
 Redwood Bush: 5B
 Wilf Mexted Reserve: 5C
 Huntleigh Park: 5D
 West Khandallah Park: 5E
 Khandallah Park: 5F
 East Khandallah Park: 5G
 Otari Native Botanic Garden: 5H
 Gilbert Bush Reserve: 5I
 Johnsonville Park: 5J

GROUP 1. NORTHERN URBAN AREA, north west of the line of the Wellington Fault. Includes Karori, excludes Tawa.

1A: Trelissick Park

Main habitat types

Tawa dominant secondary broadleaf forest
 Regenerating mixed podocarp/broadleaf
 Karaka/Titoki dominated forest
 Low broadleaf forest
 Mown grassland/streamside shrubland
 Gorse/Broom shrubland
 Mahoe dominant broadleaf forest

Significance as a Conservation Site

- One of last sites where Kokako and Saddlebacks were reported in the Region (Forest and Bird, 1988), indicating the potential of the site to support bird species.
- Good range of dominant forest species and quality areas of regeneration in a relatively small area.
- Ecological corridor link.

1B: Tyers Stream Reserve**Main habitat types**

Regenerating mixed podocarp/broadleaf
Low broadleaf forest
Treeferns
Streamside (broadleaf/ferns)

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Contains significant amount of a small catchment area.
- Contains stream and riparian ecosystems.
- Good range of dominant forest species and quality areas of regeneration.

1C: Kaiwharawhara Stream Conservation Site (0.1370 ha)**Main habitat types**

The site is beside the Kaiwharawhara Stream and very near to the sea. It comprises the stream bed and banks with soft soil and artificial nesting burrows under a shrub and monocotyledon canopy.

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Used by Little Blue Penguin as a nesting site. The Little Blue penguin, *Eudyptula minor*, is a protected species under section 3 of the Wildlife Act 1953.
- Within the Wellington City Council area around Wellington Harbour very few Little Blue penguin habitats remain.

GROUP 2. SOUTHERN URBAN AREA, south east of the line of the Wellington fault, includes the Miramar Peninsula.**2A: Maupuia Park****Main habitat types**

Regenerating mixed broadleaf forest
Ageing introduced species (pine and macrocarpa remnants)

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Good area of regenerating native forest within the urban area that forms a backdrop to the North Miramar suburban area.
- Relatively large and compact area of regeneration.
- Potential to be developed as recreational or scenic reserve.
- A potential nursery area for the native revegetation of the Mt Crawford area.

2B: Tapu Te Ranga Island**Main habitat types**

Bare ground/rock
Flax communities
Salt marsh
Shrubland

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Off shore island with reduced access.
- Under-represented coastal ecosystem.
- Nesting/roosting site for various sea birds.
- Identified in the Regional Policy Statement as an important element in a nationally significant landscape and seascape.

2C: Fort Dorset**Main habitat types**

Taupata/flax shrubland
Grassland
Broadleaf shrubland
Beach/escarpment with sparse vegetation

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Site contains a population of the rare sedge *Desmoschoenus spiralis*.
- Representative area of coastal and escarpment vegetation (accessible with good regeneration).

2D: Tarakena Bay**Main habitat types**

Grassland
Shingleland
Regenerating broadleaf forest
Gorse shrubland

Escarpment**Significance as a Conservation Site**

- Could be a site for an accessible coastal broadleaf forest reserve that would be typical of the region yet is presently seriously under-represented.
- Two sites of archaeological significance.
- Possible colony site for *Phalacrocorax carbo*.
- While not part of the site the rocks in the bay may be a significant site for the Black Shag. This bird, although common in the area, is known to have only four breeding colonies in the region.

2E: Moa Point**Main habitat types**

Shingle hermland
Shingle shrubland
Rockland
Taupata shrubland

Significance as a Conservation Site

- A relatively unmodified site. Vegetation is fairly continuous, and dense.
- One of the larger saltmarsh habitats seen on the south coast, and certainly one of the least modified.
- Prominent geomorphology/landforms. Also provides nesting sites for seabirds.
- Access is limited to people on foot and at low tide. Human impact physically reduced by site's characteristics.
- Site for one nationally rare (*Senecio sterquilinus*), and one locally rare (*Crassula moschata*) plant species.
- Breeding site for the threatened bird species *Haematopus unicolor* (variable oyster catcher).

2F: Houghton Bay**Main habitat types**

Grassland dominated by Pingao and Spinifex
Shrub and flaxland and shingle screens
Beach with occasional saltmarsh plants

Significance as a Conservation Site

- A site for the rare sedge *Desmoschoenus spiralis*.
- Shows a number of typical Wellington south coast features in a relatively small area.
- High degree of nativeness in vegetation communities (70-95%; Freeguard and Weeber).

2G: Owhiro Bay**Main habitat types**

Grassland dominated by *Desmoschoenus spiralis*
Surrounding beach and rocks (including Taupata shrubs)

Significance as a Conservation Site

- A site for the rare sedge *Desmoschoenus spiralis*.

2H: Tawatawa Ridge**Main habitat types**

Mature coastal forest
Gorse shrubland

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Good-sized remnant of mature southern North Island coastal forest.
- Potential ecological corridor link from Tapu Te Ranga site.
- Good seed source for revegetation.
- Vegetation at the site is in good condition and has a high degree of nativeness for such a relatively small area (M. Wassilieff). The mosaic of revegetation is of educational value to botanists and to the public.
- Area contains a regionally significant stand of *Melicope ternata* (wharangi) (M. Wassilieff).

2I: Tapu Te Ranga Marae**Main habitat types**

Artificial regenerating mixed native forest
Gorse shrubland/open ground

Significance as a Conservation Site

- The site has scientific and educational value as an area that is being artificially regenerated back to its original state. This project is being carried out voluntarily by the Manawa-Karioi Society. The project is also used as an education opportunity for schools and similar groups.
- The revegetation project can be used to assess the likelihood of success for similar projects in the Wellington area and to evaluate planting methods. There is much to learn from how revegetation of a site can be enhanced and how such a process can be altered so that the revegetated forest is representative of the type of forest that once covered Wellington.
- Long-term potential as a revegetated native broadleaf forest with community-based support.

[2J: Part of Te Kopahou Reserve**Main habitat types**

Flax land
Coastal forest and treeland
Regenerating coastal cliff or flaxland and shrubland

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Contains important remnants of coastal forest and coastal cliff communities
- Contains several species of regionally vulnerable or less common plants
- Is a large and compact area representative of coastal indigenous vegetation
- Connectivity value between the south coast and the Outer Green Belt^{PC55}

GROUP 3. SOUTHERN NON-URBAN AREA, bordered by Karori Stream to the west, the south western coastline and the urban edge to the north and east.

3A: Wellington South Coast

Main habitat types

Shrubs (dominated by *Oleria solandri* and *Cassinia leptophylla*)
Flax shrubland
Shrubland on less stable ground
Manuka shrubland with *Oleria paniculata* and flax
Mixed broadleaf shrubland
Dune grasslands (*Spinifex* and *Desmoschoenus spiralis*)

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Site for 13 species of regionally rare/endangered plants and 1 nationally rare specie (Pingao).
- Site for 3 nationally important fauna species and their natural habitat areas (including Red Rocks and Sinclair Head Scientific Reserves).
- Nationally important Red Rocks pillow lavas (CRI).
- Contains a number of historical and contemporary sites significant to Maori, and scattered midden and oven sites along the coast.
- Popular recreational and, potentially, educational area close to the City.
- Two of the southernmost stands of Karaka in the North Island (the southernmost stand, near Red Rocks is senescent).
- Identified in the Regional Policy Statement as containing coastal escarpments and beaches that contribute to regionally significant landscape and seascape.

3B: Karori Reservoir

Main habitat types

Regenerating native broadleaf forest
Regenerating native broadleaf/mature Rangiora canopy
Introduced pine plantation remnants
Drained lakebed rock and wetlands

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Large area of regenerating native forest. This area is a complete catchment area with a number of different habitats.
- Potential for the site to be developed as a wildlife sanctuary.
- Potential for the creation of a wetland area. This habitat type is under-represented in the Wellington region.
- Ecological corridor link.
- All cited literature on the site indicates that this site as a priority conservation area.

3C: Polhill and Waimapihi Gullies

Main habitat types

Gorse/Tauhinu Scrubland, with broadleaf regeneration
Secondary Broadleaf forest, Mahoe dominant
Macrocarpa-dominated forest, with some young native broadleaf
Treefern-dominant Broadleaf forest
Open grassed areas

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Moderate-to-large area of regenerating broadleaf forest close to inner city.
- Ecological corridor link. The area links Karori Reservoir to North Happy Valley/Hawkins Hill area.
- A buffer area for the Karori reservoir area.

GROUP 4. WESTERN NON-URBAN AREA, bordered by Karori stream to the east, the south western coastline and Makara Road to the north.

4A: South west Coastline

Main habitat types

Similar to site 3A.
(Assume that vegetation composition would be fairly uniform for the south west coastal escarpments.)

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Established Crown Reserves.
- Numerous seal haulout sites (breeding, bachelor groups and resting areas). Modification or destruction of these sites may mean a turnaround in the

presently increasing seal populations.

- Little is known about these sites because of their remoteness. However, these areas are sensitive to disturbance and an increasing number of significant plant and animal species are being found as research is undertaken. Protection is advocated so that these areas can be studied and have their natural character retained.
- Significant interglacial marine terrace features at Tongue Point (nationally) and Cape Terawhiti (regionally).
- Within the area being considered, the whole of the coastal escarpment from Cape Terawhiti to the south side of the Makara Stream is nationally important in terms of it being the only area in the North Island where the new (as yet unnamed) species of Gecko is found.
- The rare *Lyperobius huttoni* (speargrass weevil) is found in this area.
- Identified in the Regional Policy Statement as containing coastal escarpments and beaches that contribute to regionally significant landscape and seascape.

4B: Telecom Village Bush

Main habitat types

Primary coastal podocarp/broadleaf remnant.

Tree ferns and other fern species dominate gully areas. The fringe areas either have *Macrocarpas* or are dominated by shrubby species, including gorse, *Hebe stricta* and juvenile *Pohutukawa*. On drier hilltop areas *Manuka* dominates.

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Primary coastal forest remnant. As primary coastal forest remnants, these patches are representative of a forest type that is now almost totally removed from the Wellington region. Their conservation is a priority.
- Moderate SSWI value.

4C: Warrens Bush

Main habitat types

Primary coastal podocarp/broadleaf forest.

Note: this applies only to the area of the Conservation Site and not surrounding farmland.

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Significant remnant of primary coastal podocarp/broadleaf forest, now poorly represented in the Wellington Region.
- Access is controlled by the landowner.
- Landowners are receptive to the area's protection and enhancement.

GROUP 5. NORTHERN AREA, bordered by Makara Road to the south, the urban boundary to the east, the western coastline, the Hutt Road/SH2 and the Wellington City Council boundary to the north.

5A: Makara Estuary

Main habitat types

Marram grassland
 Raoulia herbfield
 Low marsh herbfields
 High marsh herbfields
 Tall fescue-dominated grasslands
 Sedgeland
 Exotic low grasslands
 Karaka stand

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Area once the type locality for a rare estuarine daisy and the current habitat for a locally threatened native Musk. The threatened sedge *Pingao* is also present.
- The locally rare Giant Bully as well as many other native fish have been recorded in the estuary.
- The area contains a current WCC Beachfront Reserve site.
- The estuary is regionally representative of coastal river mouth flats.

5B: Redwood Bush

Main habitat types

Tawa-dominant secondary broadleaf forest
 Regenerating mixed broadleaf

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Remnant of original forest type, under-represented in Wellington district.
- Good range of dominant forest species and quality areas of regeneration in a relatively small area.

5C: Wilf Mexted Reserve

Main habitat types

Tawa/Kohekohe/Mahoe broadleaf forest
 Gorse shrubland with regenerating broadleaf

Significance as a Conservation Site

- One of the last patches of Tawa-dominated primary broadleaf forest in the Tawa area.
- Good quality mature primary broadleaf forest.

5D: Huntleigh Park**Main habitat types**

Kohekohe forest
Podocarp/broadleaf association
Regenerating broadleaf forest
Manuka/gorse shrubland

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Large area (~15 ha) of Kohekohe forest (poorly represented in the Wellington area).
- Good variety of regenerated vegetation types.
- Podocarp associations on the ridgetops.

5E: West Khandallah Park**Main habitat types**

Mixed broadleaf forest
Open grassland/gorse

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Increases area of Khandallah Park by over 100 percent with similar vegetation types.
- Relatively large area of broadleaf forest.
- Ecological corridor link. The site fills in what would otherwise be a large gap between Khandallah Park and the start of the Town Belt.

5F: Khandallah Park**Main habitat types**

Tawa/kohekohe-dominated broadleaf forest
Kohekohe-dominated broadleaf forest
Regenerating broadleaf forest dominated by Mahoe
Broadleaf scrub
a) mixed
b) dominated by rangjora and raurekau
Gorse and barberry scrub
Exotic pines and macrocarpas with native broadleaf understorey

Significance as a Conservation Site

- The regionally rare tree fern *Cyathea cunninghamii* is found in the area.
- Large area of regenerating vegetation.
- Good mosaic of species composition.

5G: East Khandallah Park**Main habitat types**

Regenerating mixed broadleaf forest
Gorse shrublands with regenerating broadleaves

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Buffer zone for east side of Khandallah Park.
- Regenerating mixed broadleaf forest.
- Ecological corridor link (Khandallah Park to Johnsonville Park).

5H: Otari Native Botanic Garden**Main habitat types**

Tawa/Hinau-dominant forest
Tawa/Kohekohe-dominated forest
Kohekohe-dominated forest
Kohekohe/Mahoe-dominated forest
Myrsine australis/Gorse-dominated shrubland
Gorse/Barberry-dominated shrubland/grazed farmland

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Areas of primary native forest remnant.
- Good areas of secondary native forest representative of pre-colonial native forest.
- Ecological corridor link (also part of the Outer Town Belt concept).
- Visit site for *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*. There is the potential that this threatened species might use the area as a breeding site again if the conditions were right.
- Excellent range of native species in cultivated and natural conditions.

5I: Gilbert Bush Reserve**Main habitat types**

Streamside (broadleaves/ferns/Nikau)
Treeferns
Gorse/broadleaf shrubland (low quality)
Older broadleaf intergrading with Gorse/broadleaf shrubland in drier parts

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Contains a good area of regenerated native broadleaf forest with further regeneration occurring on the fringes.
- Good stream habitat that is sheltered down in a deep valley.
- Nikau palms are present in the vicinity of the stream which are not commonly seen in the Wellington region.

5J: Johnsonville Park

Main habitat types

Open grassland (mown)
Regenerated mixed broadleaf/podocarp forest (15m+)
Mixed broadleaf shrublands (forest juveniles)
Treeferns (dominated by Black Mamaku)
Exotic pine/macropcarpa remnants
Gorse shrubland with mixed broadleaf juveniles
Young (canopy height 10-15m) Matai forest
Mature Ngaio forest

Significance as a Conservation Site

- Significant area of regenerating Ngaio-dominated broadleaf forest.
- Good range of diverse native vegetation types, demonstrating age, habitat and altitudinal changes.
- Patches of locally less common species, such as Matai and treeferns.