

PINEHAVEN SPUR¹

Keely Paler
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PROPERTY DETAILS

Significant Natural Area	UH070: Pinehaven Valley forest and scrub
Address	Pinehaven Spur
Attendees	Keely Paler, Emily Thomson, Richard Harbord, Ike Kleynbos
Date of Site Visit	12 November 2020
Ecological District	Wellington

ECOLOGICAL VALUES

Overview of SNA UH070

A series of indigenous forest patches, separated by pine forest, which comprise kāmahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*) forest with emergent pine (*Pinus radiata*), primary beech forest with podocarp-northern rātā (*Metrosideros robusta*; Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable²), and secondary beech forest with kāmahi and wilding pines throughout. Other plant species recorded from this site include *Crassula ruamahanga* (At Risk-Naturally Uncommon³), three podocarp species of local interest (rimu/*Dacrydium cupressinum*, kahikatea/*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*, and tōtara *Podocarpus totara*); as well as whauwhaupaku (*Pseudopanax arboreus*), mānuka (*Leptospermum scoparium* agg.; At Risk-Declining), kōhūhū (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*), akeake (*Dodonaea viscosa*), *Coprosma robusta*, māhoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus* subsp. *ramiflorus*), hīnau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*), patē (*Schefflera digitata*), hangehange (*Geniostoma ligustrifolium* var. *ligustrifolium*), tutu (*Coriaria arborea* var. *arborea*), rangiora (*Brachyglottis repanda*), porokaiwhiri (*Hedycarya arborea*), and tī kōuka (*Cordyline australis*).

Provides habitat for indigenous lizards including the barking gecko (*Naultinus punctatus*; At Risk-Declining⁴), Ngahere gecko (*Mokopirirakau* "southern North Island"; At Risk-Declining), northern grass skink (*Oligosoma polychroma*), and copper skink (*Oligosoma aeneum*). Pacific gecko (*Dactylocnemis pacificus*; At Risk-Relict), tītītipounamu (North Island rifleman; *Acanthisitta chloris granti*; At Risk-Declining⁵), pōpokotea (whitehead; *Mohoua*

¹ Reviewed by Nick Goldwater, Principal Ecologist.

² Northern rātā and mānuka have national-level threat classifications as per de Lange *et al.* 2018; Northern rātā (Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable), and mānuka (At Risk-Declining). Northern rātā and mānuka are Myrtaceae species which are at risk of infection by myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*), a potentially devastating rust which has no known treatment. Along with other species in the Myrtaceae family, the threat status of northern rātā and mānuka have been elevated as a precautionary measure based on the potential threat posed by myrtle rust. However, the presence of northern rātā or mānuka at this site does not trigger the rarity criteria because the species are currently widespread in the local environment

³ Threat status of indigenous vascular plants follows de Lange *et al.* (2018).

⁴ Threat status of indigenous reptiles follows Hitchmough *et al.* (2016).

⁵ Threat status of indigenous birds follows Robertson *et al.* (2017).

albicilla; At Risk-Declining), karearea (bush falcon; *Falco novaeseelandiae ferox*; At Risk-Recovering), koekoeā (long-tailed cuckoo; *Eudynamys taitensis*; At Risk-Naturally Uncommon), and the regionally uncommon korimako (bellbird; *Anthornis melanura melanura*) and miromiro (pied tomtit; *Petroica macrocephala toitoi*) have all been recorded nearby and may also be present. Includes parts of Urban Tree Groups 293, 312, 357, 363, and 366 as listed in Chapter 27A of the Upper Hutt District Plan.

The significance criteria that the SNA meets are listed in Table 1, together with the justifications.

Table 1: Significance assessment for UH070.

RPS Policy 23 Criterion	Significant (Yes/No)	Justification
a) Representativeness	Yes	Late succession broadleaved species forest is representative of current vegetation types.
b) Rarity	Yes	Two threatened and two At Risk plant species, and two At Risk lizard species.
c) Diversity	No	Appears modified and likely to have a reduced natural diversity.
d) Ecological context	Yes	Likely to provide 'stepping stone' habitat for birds travelling through the Hutt Valley.
e) Tangata whenua	Unknown	Not assessed.
Is the Site Significant?	Yes	This site meets one or more RPS Policy 23 Criteria.

Area of SNA within Pinehaven Spur

Vegetation within the proposed SNA on this property comprises kāmahi forest with beech trees, mānuka, kanono (*Coprosma grandifolia*), ponga (*Cyathea dealbata*), māhoe, mamaku (*Cyathea medullaris*), and putaputawētā (*Carpodetus serratus*). Wilding pines occur frequently.

Other areas inspected comprised gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)-mānuka scrub, or small areas (>0.5 hectares) of broadleaved species scrub, which includes the following species: tarata (*Pittosporum eugenioides*), māhoe, mānuka, mamaku, kōhūhū, whauwhaupaku, ponga, karamū, māpou (*Myrsine australis*), hangehange, makomako (*Aristotelia serrata*), large leaved pōhuehue, supplejack (*Ripogonum scandens*), nini (*Austroblechnum lanceolatum*), *Gahnia* sp., kiokio (*Parablechnum novae-zelandiae*), and bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*).

The significance criteria that vegetation at Pinehaven Spur meets are listed in Table 2, together with the justifications.

Table 2: Significance assessment for UH070: Pinehaven Spur.

RPS Policy 23 Criterion	Significant (Yes/No)	Justification
a) Representativeness	Yes	Contains kāmahī-broadleaved species forest, which is poorly represented in existing protected areas.
b) Rarity	No	No rare features known.
c) Diversity	No	Contains a reduced diversity of species.
d) Ecological context	Yes	Provides a corridor or 'stepping stone' habitat for birds crossing the Hutt Valley.
e) Tangata whenua	Unknown	Not assessed.
Is the Site Significant?	Yes	This site meets one or more RPS Policy 23 Criteria.

ACTIONS TAKEN

Minor adjustments to the SNA delineation were made to include an adjacent area of indigenous vegetation dominated by beech trees (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Adjustments have been made to an area of SNA on the Pine Haven Spur. The yellow line indicates the original proposed SNA delineation, and the orange line indicates the amended proposed SNA delineation.

REFERENCES

de Lange P.J., Rolfe J.R., Barkla J.W., Courtney S.P., Champion P.D., Perrie L.R., Beadel S.M., Ford K.A., Breitwieser I., Schönberger I., Hindmarsh-Walls R., Heenan P.B. and Ladley K. 2018: Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2017. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series 22*. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 82 pp.

Hitchmough R., Barr B., Lettink M., Monks J., Reardon J., Tocher M., van Winkel D., and Rolfe J. 2016: Conservation status of New Zealand reptiles, 2015. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series 17*. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 14 pp.

Robertson H.A., Baird K., Dowding J.E., Elliott G.P., Hitchmough R.A., Miskelly C.M., McArthur N., O'Donnell C.J., Sagar P.M., Scofield R.P., and Taylor G.A. 2017: Conservation status of New Zealand birds, 2016. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series 19*. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 23 pp.