



Ngongotaha Railway Kahikatea

Site Number: SNA9
Ecological District: Rotorua Lakes
Source of Information: Shaw and Beadel (1998)
Digital Scale: 1:2,000
Data Source: RDAM 2006
Regional Council: Bay of Plenty
1998 Site Number: NHS No. 9
Current Tenure: Unprotected
Site Area: 3.2 ha
Altitude Range: 300 m
Bioclimatic Zone: Lowland
Grid Reference: NZTM E1882279, N5778952

VEGETATION		LANDFORM	EXTENT
CODE	TYPE		
1	Kahikatea forest (Chinese privet (<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>), kanono, mamaku, mahoe, wheki ponga, <i>Hypolepis ambigua</i> , <i>Blechnum filiforme</i> and kiokio comprise the understorey and ground cover).	Flat	1.9 ha
2	Pole kahikatea-grey willow forest (with common kohuhu, mahoe, broom, blackberry, and scattered buddleia).	Flat	0.2 ha
3	Secondary kahikatea forest (with subcanopy of mingimingi, kohuhu, mapou, swamp coprosma, wheki, wheki ponga and kiokio).	Flat	1.1 ha

Indigenous Flora: No threatened or at risk species as listed in de Lange *et al.* (2009) have been recorded from this site. Other taxa present include swamp kiokio, kotukutuku, and *Parsonsia heterophylla*.

Fauna: No threatened or at risk species as listed in Hitchmough *et al.* (2007) or Miskelly *et al.* (2008) have been recorded from this site.

Notes on Overall Condition: This small modified remnant is one of the few remaining examples of kahikatea forest that was once much more extensive around lakes and wetlands in the Rotorua District. It comprises a small stand of mature trees, contiguous with a younger stand of secondary forest dominated by pole kahikatea, as well as a stand of secondary kahikatea forest.

Change Relative to Shaw and Beadel (1998): Unknown. Probably little change.

Threats/Modification/Vulnerability: Pest plants are common in the understorey, including grey willow and Japanese honeysuckle. The eastern portion is grazed.

Risk Assessment: Pest plants: Risk to site - high; Timeframe - high.
Stock grazing (if still occurring): Risk to site - high; Timeframe high.

Significance Level: Regional (Appendix 4 - Table 1 - Criteria 1, 2, 6, 8; Table 2 - Factor R4).

Significance Justification: This site is Regionally significant because it comprises indigenous vegetation on flats and in wetlands in the lowland bioclimatic zone, an under-represented combination in the Rotorua Lakes ED. Kahikatea forest is a very scarce type in the Rotorua Lakes ED (Clarkson 1991). All remnants are of conservation

significance and warrant formal protection (Shaw 1995b).

Fieldwork Required: No fieldwork required to assess significance, but fieldwork required to update biodiversity and management information.

Notes: This site was identified as a “Recommended Area for Protection” (RAP No. 9) in the natural area survey of Rotorua Lakes ED (Beadel *et al.* 1998).

References: Shaw (1995b); Shaw and Beadel (1998); Beadel *et al.* (1998).