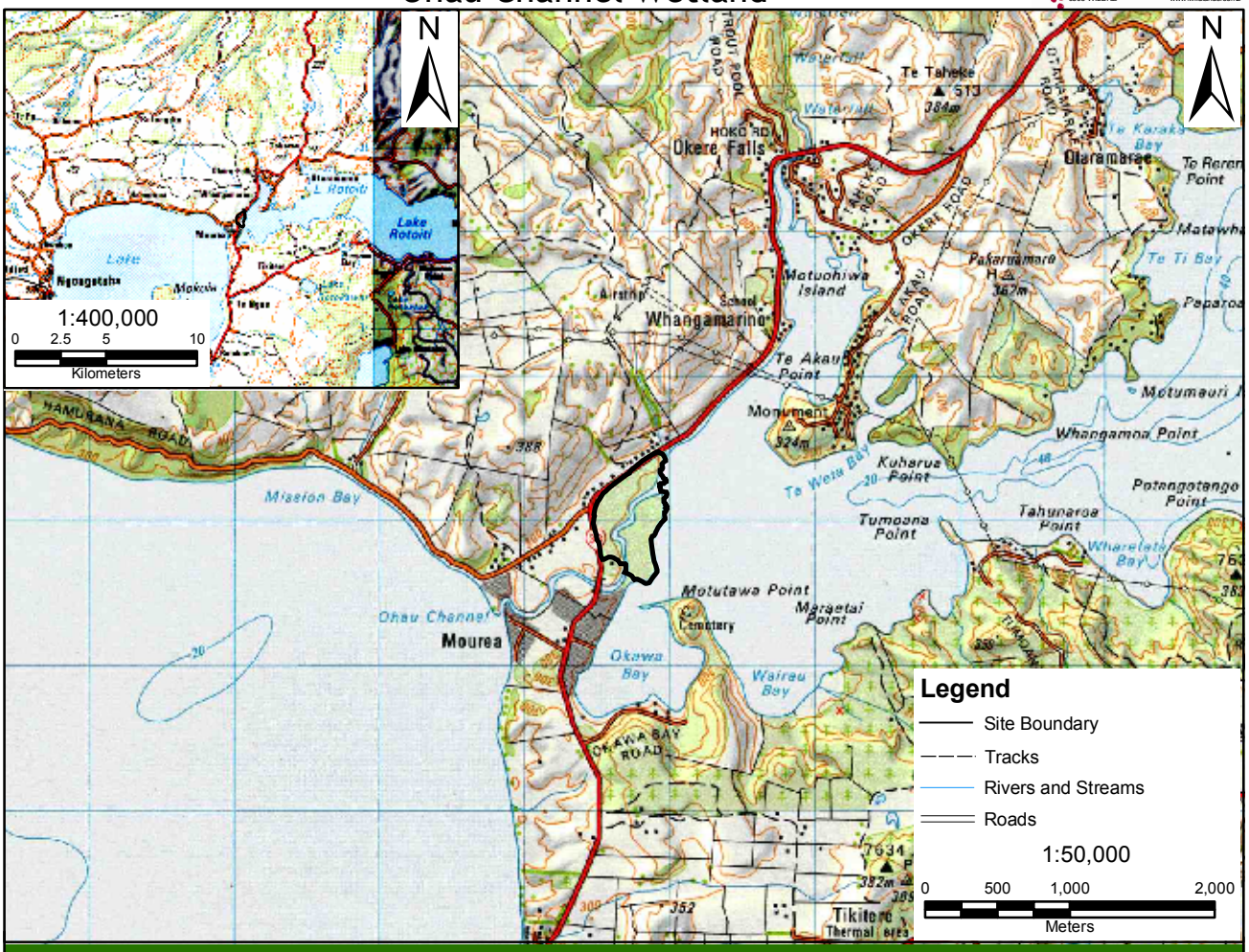
SNA 24

Ohau Channel Wetland



Ohau Channel Wetland

Site Number: SNA24
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. 24
Current Tenure: Unprotected
Site Area: 29.0 ha
Altitude Range: 280-290 m
Bioclimatic Zone: Lowland
Grid Reference: NZTM E1892572, N5784474

VEGETATION		LANDFORM	EXTENT
CODE	TYPE		
1	• Grey willow/(manuka)-(*Coprosma propinqua*) forest with understorey of swamp coprosma, *Carex secta,* swamp kiokio, kiokio, *Baumea articulata, B. rubiginosa,* and swamp millet (*Isachne globosa*). Blackberry, bracken and gorse locally common along road margins.	Wetland	26.2 ha
	• Swamp coprosma-manuka/*Carex secta-Baumea rubiginosa*-swamp kiokio sedgeland (with common wheki, raupo, *Baumea articulata* and locally common blackberry and bracken)	Wetland	
	• *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*-raupo reedland with common *Carex virgata, Baumea articulata, B. rubiginosa, B. tenax; Spirodela punctata, Azolla filiculoides,* and marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) on surface of ponds.	Wetland	
	• Channel of open water	Open water	
2	Open water.	Open water	2.8 ha

Indigenous Flora: *Tupeia antarctica* ('At Risk - Declining' in de Lange *et al*. 2009) and *Ranunculus macropus* ('Data Deficient' in de Lange *et al*. 2009) have been recorded from this site more than 10 years ago.

Fauna: North Island fernbird ('At Risk - Declining' in Miskelly *et al.* 2008) and New Zealand dabchick ('Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable' in Miskelly *et al.* 2008) and other lake birds utilise the margins. The Ohau Channel waterway provides habitat for little shag, little black shag, black shag (all 'At Risk - Naturally Uncommon' in Miskelly *et al*. 2008), red-billed gull and Caspian tern ('Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable' in Miskelly *et al*. 2008), and black-billed gull ('Threatened - Nationally Endangered' in Miskelly *et al*. 2008) (Wildland Consultants 2008a).

Notes on Overall Condition: Whilst the site is now dominated by willow forest and treeland, the understorey is dominated by indigenous wetland species. Podocarp forest would probably have once covered much of this site. Following clearance, wetland vegetation including reedlands, sedgelands and shrublands would have developed. Willow forest and treeland, and blackberry scrub have subsequently established.

Change Relative to Shaw and Beadel (1998):	Unknown. Probably continued spread of grey willow into the site.
Threats/Modification/ Vulnerability:	Weeds are common along the margins of the wetland. Grey willow is present and is likely to increase in abundance. Small areas around the margins have recently been developed, cleared, and filled and are now house sites.
Risk Assessment:	Grey willow spread: Risk to site - high; Timeframe - high.
Significance Level:	National.
Significance Justification:	This site is of national significance for its wetland vegetation and flora, and its wildlife values, including habitat for threatened and at risk bird species. It is also an important ecological buffer to Lake Rotoiti and the Ohau Channel. It has a small population of a rare species of mistletoe (*Tupeia antarctica*). Wetland vegetation was once more extensive in the Rotorua Lakes Ecological District.
Fieldwork Required:	No fieldwork required to assess significance, but fieldwork required to update biodiversity and management information.
Notes:	Construction of the Ohau Channel Diversion Structure was completed in 2008. This site was identified as a "Recommended Area for Protection" (RAP No. 24) in the natural area survey of Rotorua Lakes ED (Beadel *et al*. 1998).
References:	Beadel and Shaw (1998); Beadel *et al*. (1998); Wildland Consultants (2008a); Wildland Consultants (2005a).