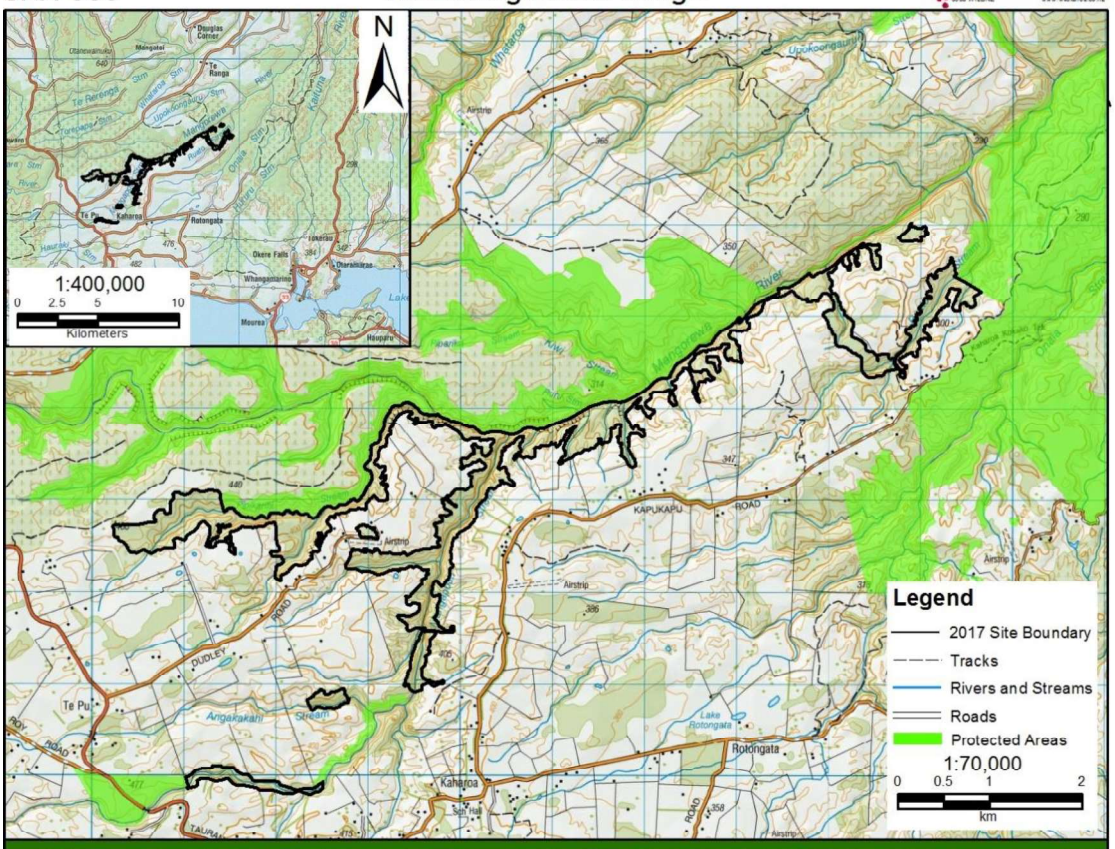
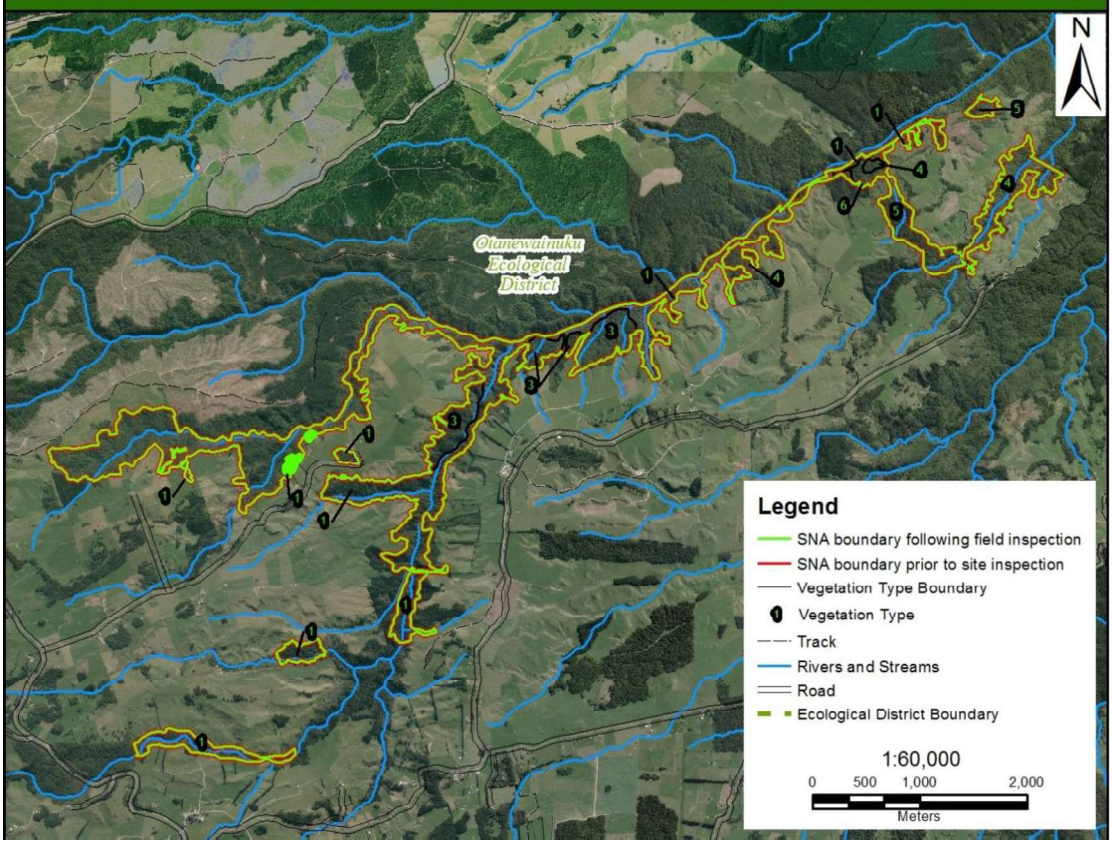
SNA 660 Mid Mangorewa Gorge



## Mid Mangorewa Gorge

**Site Number:** SNA660
**Ecological District:** Otanewainuku
**Source of Information:** Beadel (2006); Shaw and Beadel (1998), field inspection 2017 (part)
**Digital Scale:** 1:2,000
**Data Source:** RDAM 2006
**Regional Council:** Bay of Plenty
**1998 Site Number:** NHS No. 660
**Current Tenure:** Unprotected
**Site Area:** 357.1 ha
**Altitude Range:** 180-460 m
**Bioclimatic Zone:** Lowland; Semi-coastal
**Grid Reference:** NZTM E1884390, N5793457

| VEGETATION | | LANDFORM | EXTENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| CODE | TYPE | | |
| 1 | Tawa-rewarewa-mangeao-(hinau) forest | Hillslope | 257.30 ha |
| 2 | Rimu-rewarewa/tawa-tānekaha-(hinau) forest (not mapped) | Ridges, hillslope | Not mapped |
| 3 | Rewarewa/tawa forest | Hillslope | 44.92 ha |
| 4 | Rewarewa-(rimu)/tawa-kamahi forest with local rewarewa/kamahi forest | Ridge, gully, hillslope | 30.61 ha |
| 5 | Tawa-rewarewa-pukatea-kohekohe forest | Hillslope, gully | 23.90 ha |
| 6 | Tānekaha-rewarewa/kamahi forest | Hillslope, spur | 6.62 ha |
| 7 | Tānekaha forest;<br>Tawa-rewarewa forest;<br>Tānekaha-rewarewa/manuka scrub ⇔ manuka-bracken-kiokio fernland;<br>Hard beech forest | Spur, hillslope<br><br>Gorge, hillslope<br><br>Spur | Not mapped |

**Indigenous Flora:** No Threatened or At Risk species (as listed in de Lange *et al.* 2013) have been recorded, but some may be present. Species present include *Cordyline pumilio*.

**Fauna:** This site was classified as outstanding wildlife habitat in Saunders (1983) for its relatively large size and the wide range of bird species present. North Island brown kiwi, whio and North Island kaka (all 'Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable' in Roberston *et al*. 2013) have all been recorded at the site and bats have been noted (Fauna Survey Unit 1982, unpublished). More recent records of kiwi also exist (Owen 1992). A significant population of North Island kokako ('Threatened-Nationally Vulnerable' in Robertson *et al*. 2013) is present in the adjacent Kaharoa Conservation Area and the Lempriere QEII Covenant. Except for North Island kokako, this site is probably only of moderate significance for the listed bird species' conservation.

Long-tailed cuckoo ('At Risk-Naturally Uncommon' in Roberston *et al.* 2013) and kereru are also likely to utilise the area.

**Notes on Overall Condition:** Most of the site has been logged in the past, with additional impacts from fire and grazing in places, and infestations of pest plants common on margins. However, the site has significant wildlife values and contains representative examples of forest habitat typical of Otanewainuku ED.

There are several small stands of planted tānekaha (50 or more years old). The understorey and groundcover of these areas comprise a diverse range of indigenous species.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Change Relative to Shaw and Beadel (1998):** | Some parts of the natural area appear to have been converted to pasture and plantation forest. |
| **Threats/Modification/ Vulnerability:** | All accessible parts of this site have been heavily logged, but pockets of unlogged forest remain in the more inaccessible areas. Fire has modified the vegetation in places and some areas have a history of grazing. Many sections of the site are still unfenced, and feral deer, goats and possums are known to occur throughout. Pest plant infestation is common on the margins and some species, for example radiata pine, have penetrated well into the gorge. |
| **Risk Assessment:** | Grazing: Risk to site - medium; Timeframe - high.<br>Pest animals: Risk to site - medium; Timeframe - medium.<br>Invasive pest plants: Risk to site - low; Timeframe - low.<br>Wilding pines: Risk to site - low; Timeframe - low. |
| **Significance Level:** | Regional (Appendix 4 - Table 1 - Criteria 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13; Table 2 - Factors R8, R9). |
| **Significance Justification:** | The site is of regional significance as it is a relatively large area of forest habitat representative of the character of the ecological district and provides habitat of moderate quality to threatened fauna. |
| **Fieldwork Required:** | No fieldwork is required to assess significance, but biodiversity and management information is lacking and fieldwork is required to update this. |
| **Notes:** | This site extends to the north, outside the Rotorua District into Western Bay of Plenty District. The ecological assessment is based on the values of the entire site including those in Western Bay of Plenty District.<br><br>This site was identified as a Category 1 RAP in Beadel (2006) because of its outstanding wildlife values, and because it contains representative examples of semi-coastal and lowland indigenous forest on a wide variety of landforms.<br><br>*Landform* - A deep gorge formed by the Mangorewa Stream and two of its tributaries, the Pipikarahi and Mangapouri Streams flowing across the Mamaku rhyolite plateau. The Mangorewa is typical of virtually all streams on the plateau and flows over rock pavements.<br><br>*Vegetation* - Steep gorges characterised by hard beech and tānekaha on spurs and ridges. In the upper tributary streams (Pipikarahi and Mangapouri), much of the vegetation has developed following burning and is dominated by tānekaha, mānuka, bracken and kiokio with small pockets of remnant tawa-rewarewa forest in gullies, and hard beech forest on spurs. Tawa-rewarewa dominated forest is predominant along the Ruato Stream and along the Mangorewa Stream in the lower reaches of the site. Canopy associates include hīnau, mangeao, tānekaha, kāmahi and emergent rimu with local kohekohe on the eastern side of the site in the semi-coastal zone.<br><br>A site inspection of part of the site was undertaken in 2017, at the request of a landowner. Small boundary adjustments were made to exclude areas of exotic grasses/herbs, lawn, pines, eucalyptus and other exotic trees, and an access track. |
| **References:** | Beadel (2006); Shaw and Beadel (1998). |