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Akatarewa East

Site Number:	710
Ecological District:	Atiamuri
Source of Information:	Wildland Consultants (2014a)
Digital Scale:	1:5,000
Data Source:	Bay of Plenty 0.25m Rural Aerial Photos (2015-17)
Regional Council:	Waikato
1998 Site Number:	Not identified as a site in Shaw and Beadel (1998)
Current Tenure:	Unprotected
Site Area:	0.06 ha
Altitude Range:	390 m
Bioclimatic Zone:	Submontane
Grid Reference:	NZTM E1876276, N5738860

VEGETATION		LANDFORM	EXTENT
CODE	TYPE		
1	Exotic pine/prostrate kānuka shrubland With occasional emergent rimu. One tall (c.20 m height) radiata pine is emergent over prostrate kānuka, with scattered Spanish heath, buddleia, paspalum, and sweet vernal. Other species present include blackberry, bracken, mānuka, <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> , and occasional patches of <i>Dicranopteris linearis</i> .	Steep hillslope	0.06 ha
2	Nonvegetated raw-soilfield A small (c.0.5 × 0.2 m) fumarole alongside the cattle race is surrounded by pasture, which is dominated by sweet vernal and browntop. Ring fern and Spanish heath seedlings are also present.	Hillslope	<0.1 ha

Indigenous Flora: Prostrate kānuka (At Risk-Naturally Uncommon) and *Dicranopteris linearis* (At Risk-Naturally Uncommon) are present. *Dicranopteris linearis* is present in small patches.

Fauna: No threatened or at risk bird species as listed in Robertson *et al.* 2013 have been recorded from this site. Greenfinch and yellowhammer were recorded. Other common pasture birds are likely to be present.

Notes on Overall Condition: This site comprises geothermal features and vegetation surrounded by farmland and pine plantations. Whilst domestic stock have access to this site, parts of the site are on a steep hill-face that is largely inaccessible to stock.

Change Relative to Shaw and Beadel (1998): Unknown

Threats/Modification/Vulnerability: Radiata pine (5-25% cover) is present on the margins of the site with Spanish heath (1-5% cover) scattered throughout. Buddleia (1-5% cover) and blackberry (<1% cover) are also present.

This site is unfenced and grazed. Some parts of the site are steep and domestic stock are unlikely to be a threat in these areas. This site is adjacent to farmland and pine plantations.

Risk Assessment: Grazing: Risk to site - low; Timeframe - low.
Pest plants: Risk to site - low; Timeframe - low.

Significance Level:	Local (Table 1 - Criteria 3, 5; Table 2- Factor 19).
Significance Justification:	Akatarewa East is locally significant because it contains a small example of geothermally heated dry soils, a nationally uncommon habitat type (Williams <i>et al.</i> 2007; Holdaway <i>et al.</i> 2012). It also provides habitat for two ‘At Risk’ plant species (prostrate kānuka and <i>Dicranopteris linearis</i>), but does not represent habitat of considerable importance for the conservation of these species.
Field Work Required:	This site is a medium priority for field survey.
Notes:	There may be more features and small geothermal areas on the vertical face but access to this area for assessment was difficult and unsafe. This site was identified based on a summary of known geothermal features in Hochstein (2007b). The Hochstein study was based on summaries of geothermal features in the Orakeikorako and Te Kopia geothermal fields from Lloyd (1974) and Bignell (1994).
References:	Bignell (1994); Hochstein (2007b); Lloyd (1974); Wildland Consultants (2012 & 2014).