

Natural areas of Aupouri Ecological District

Reconnaissance Survey Report for the Protected Natural
Areas Programme

NEW ZEALAND PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS PROGRAMME

Linda Conning and Wendy Holland

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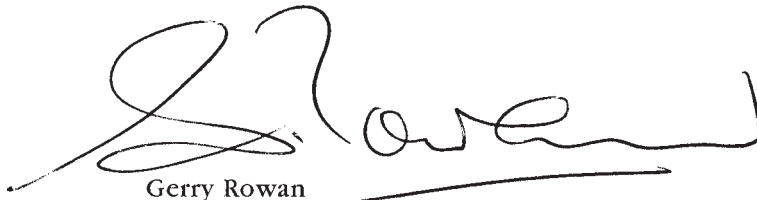
Foreword

This study has collected a large amount of information on the natural areas of the Aupouri Ecological District, and is a valuable guide to the Department of Conservation and other interested agencies and individuals as to the natural values of the Ecological District. This is useful, both for reference as well as setting conservation priorities.

Aupouri is a unique habitat, consisting of one long and a second smaller sand peninsula dotted with dune lakes and wetlands; kanuka/manuka shrublands; semi-wild coastal dune fringes; and three shallow harbours internationally important for their wildlife values. These habitats are home to a rich diversity of species including large numbers of threatened species, many of which, especially wetland dwellers, are seldom seen by people. Another distinctive feature is that there is very little indigenous forest left in this Ecological District—just a few minute remnants of pohutukawa and broadleaf forest.

In view of the overwhelming loss of wetland habitat throughout New Zealand (estimated at 85% since European settlement, Taylor and Smith 1997), and the rarity of dunefields and their associated vegetation, the preservation of these remaining areas is of vital importance for protecting indigenous biodiversity. Since the field surveying began, several areas have either been reduced in size or even disappeared, and ongoing threats, particularly from exotic forestry and other development are likely to further impact on many of the areas.

The challenge for users of this report is to implement effective protection for the natural areas identified before they are lost.

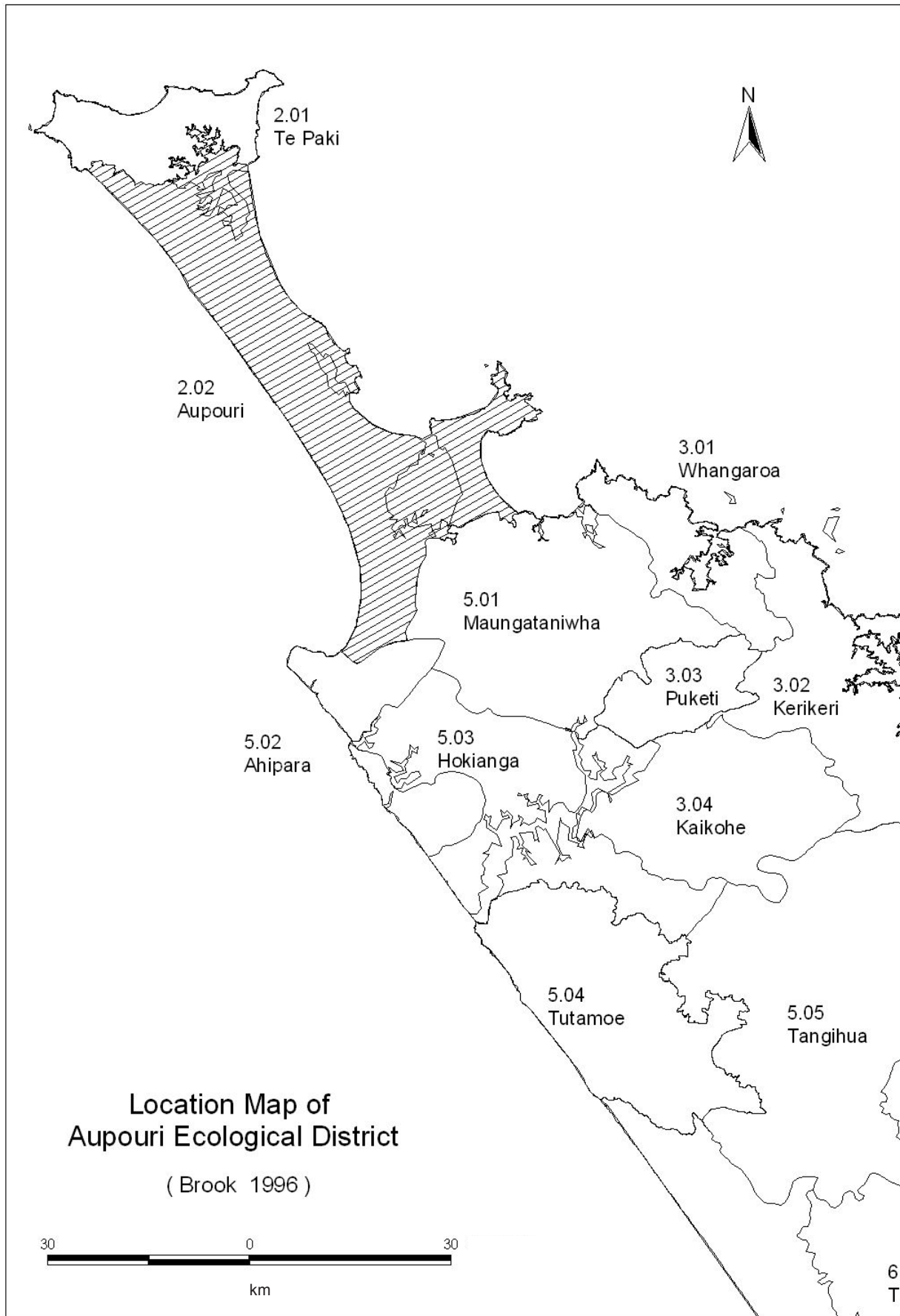
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Rowan', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Gerry Rowan
Northland Conservator

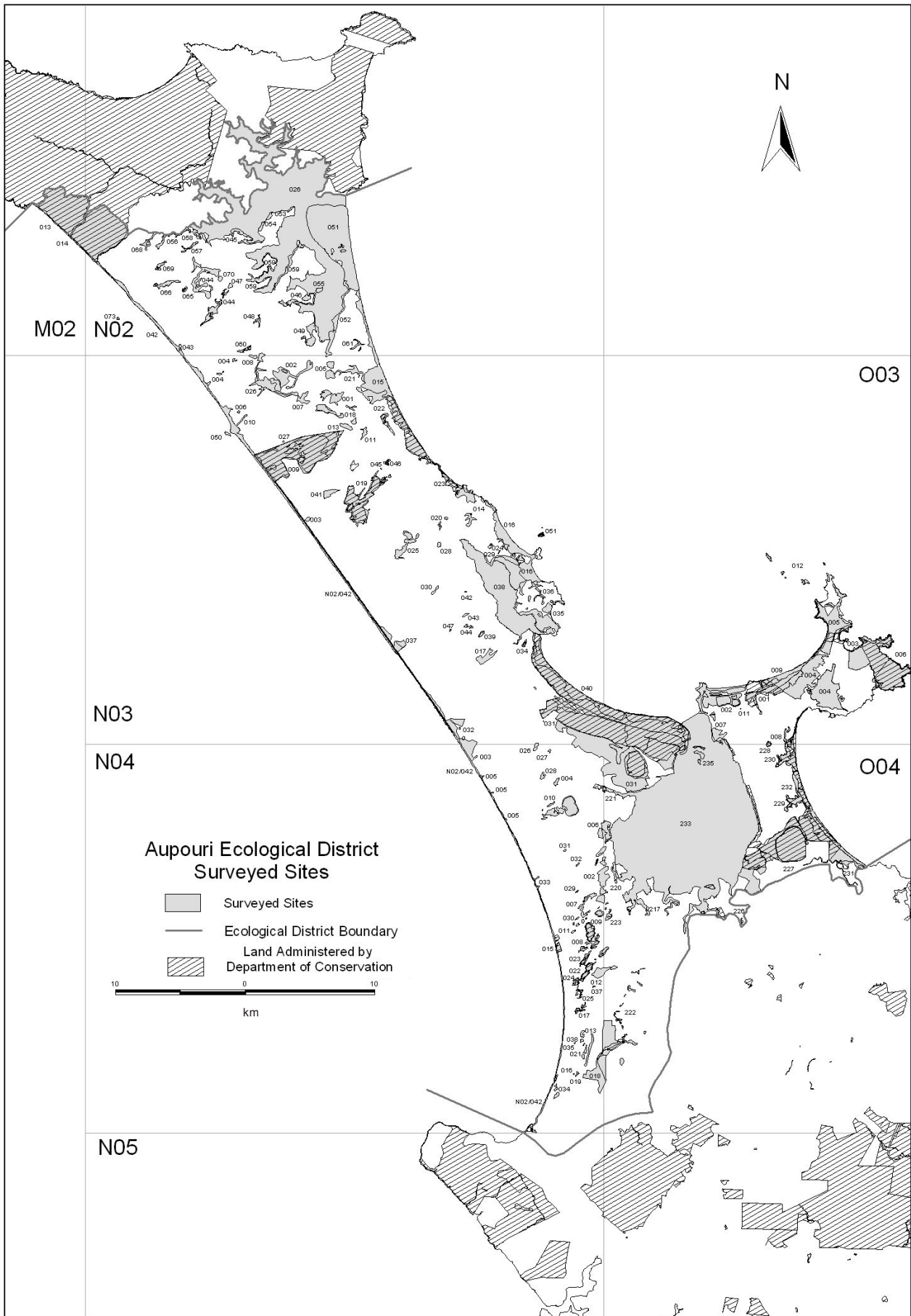
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Map 1. Location map of Aupouri Ecological District.



Map 2. Map of surveyed sites, Aupouri Ecological District, including land administered by the Department of Conservation. Note that the representation of protected areas is indicative only and should not be taken to accurately delineate these areas.

