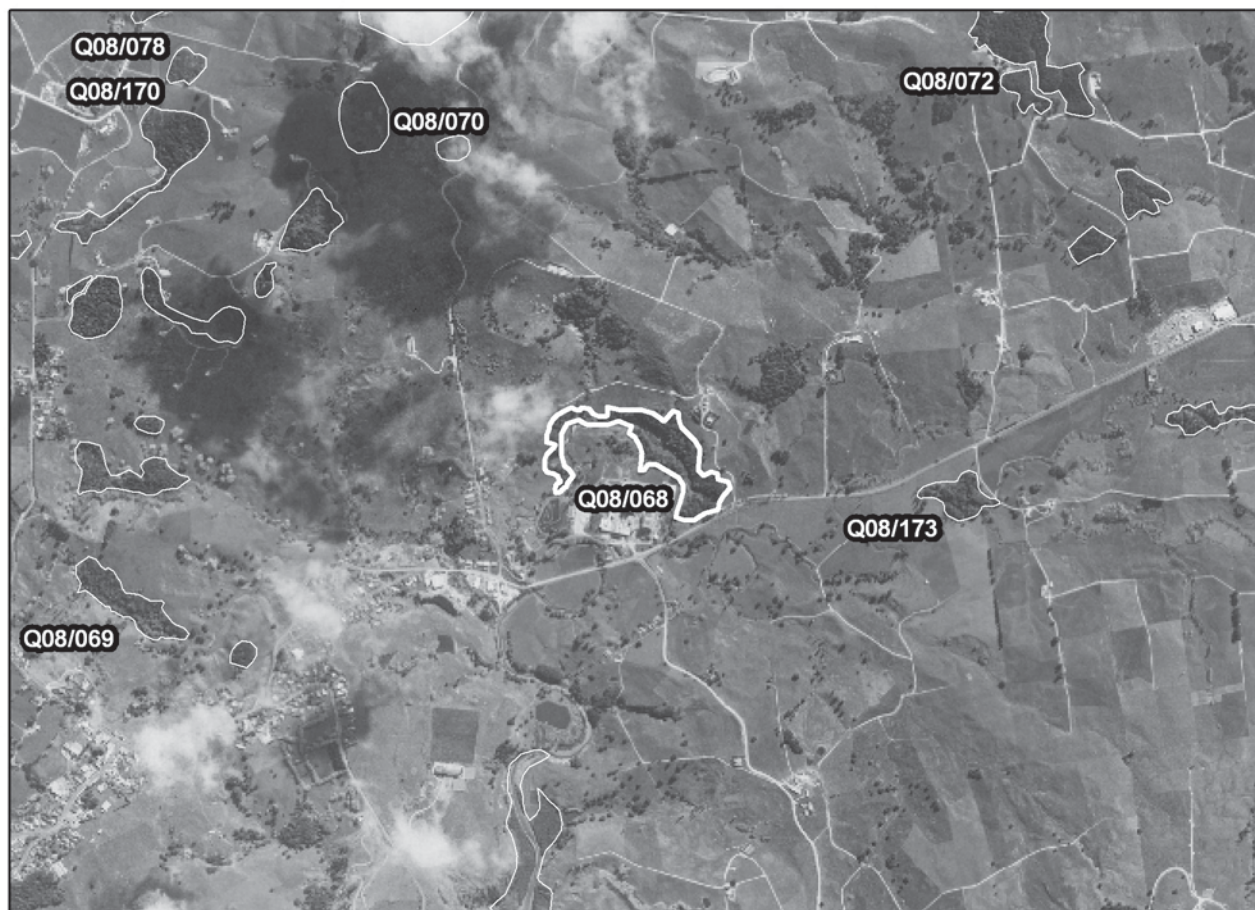


MAUNGATUROTO MARGINAL STRIP AND SURROUNDS

Survey no. Q08/068
Survey date 14 November 2005
Grid reference Q08 343 658
Area 7.5 ha
Altitude 20-36 m asl

Ecological unit

(a) Kahikatea-totara-titoki-crack willow treeland on alluvium (100%)



Q08/068 Maungaturoto Marginal Strip and Surrounds

S = Shrubland
F = Forest
W = Wetland
E = Estuarine

0 250 500 1,000 Metres



Landform/geology

Hillside of Oligocene micritic limestone (Mahurangi Limestone, Motatau Complex), and river flats on Holocene alluvium.

Vegetation

This site comprises riparian treeland on a horse-shoe bend of the lower Wairau River, near the town of Maungaturoto. The treeland curves around the back of a large dairy factory, varying in width from 5-100 m. Four main tree species are equally abundant in the canopy: kahikatea, totara, titoki and crack willow. Tawa is frequent, with ti kouka, pukatea, karaka, houhere and rewarewa occasional components of the canopy. Bush lawyer is very common in the understorey with *Coprosma areolata*, *C. rhamnoides*, *C. propinqua* × *C. robusta*, *Haloragis erecta* and pigeonwood also recorded. Karo has been planted on one edge. Many environmental weeds carpet the ground including periwinkle, tradescantia, three-cornered garlic, nasturtium, cleavers, montbretia and pink bindweed.

Fauna

Fantail, grey warbler, pukeko.

Significance

The canopy and forest edges are very open. With the added natural disturbance of river flood cycles, this remnant is one of the most highly weed infested in Otamatea ED Northland. Canopy and lower levels of the riparian treeland are severely impaired in their natural character and function by weeds such as crack willow and the many exotic groundcover species. 0.3 ha of the identified natural area is within a Marginal Strip (administered by DOC), and the vegetation in this area is mainly weed-infested river bank with little tree cover.

DOCTOR HILL ROAD FOREST REMNANTS

Survey no.	Q08/070
Survey date	14 November 2005
Grid reference	Q08 335 670 (4 remnants)
Area	23.6 ha (22.9 ha forest, 0.7 ha wetland)
Altitude	40-120 m asl

Ecological units

- (a) Taraire-kahikatea forest on moderate hillslope (85%)
- (b) Kauri forest on ridge top (10%)
- (c) Totara-kahikatea forest on moderate hillslope (3%)
- (d) Open water (constructed freshwater farm pond) (1%)
- (e) *Juncus sarophorus* rushland on constructed pond fringe (1%)

Landform/geology

Hillslopes and gullies underlain by melange (undifferentiated Mangakahia & Motatau Complex lithologies).

Vegetation

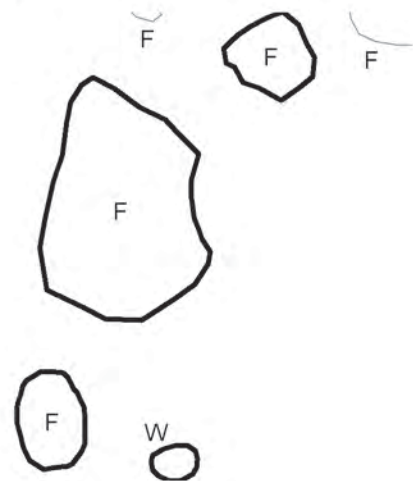
These indigenous forest remnants are clustered around the intersection of Doctor Hill Road with Gorge Road at the top of the Wairau River catchment.



Q08/070 Doctor Hill Road Forest Remnants

S = Shrubland
 F = Forest
 W = Wetland
 E = Estuarine

0 250 500 1,000 Metres



(a) The canopy of the largest remnant comprises mainly taraire, though kahikatea is also common. Totara and rimu are frequent, and puriri, nikau, kohekohe, lancewood, mamangi, pukatea and maire¹⁴ are sparse and locally distributed.

¹⁴ This species is most likely white maire (*Nestegis lanceolata*), but this was not able to be confirmed. It could possibly be black maire (*Nestegis cunninghamii*), which is regionally significant. Black maire has not been recorded in Otamatea ED Northland.

(b) A magnificent but small stand of dense, tall kauri rickers occurs east of Doctor Hill Road and just south of Gorge Road. The stand is slightly buffered around its edges by equal amounts of totara and kanuka.

(c) A small remnant of totara-kahikatea forest is separated from type (a) taraire-kahikatea forest by a farm track and approximately 200 m of pasture. Kanuka is frequent here and kohekohe is occasional.

(d) Two farm ponds are associated with this natural area, one nestled into the top of type (a) and one not connected directly to forest remnants.

(e) The main rush species around the ponds is *Juncus sarophorus*, while *Azolla pinnata* and willow weed are common on the water's edge.

Fauna

Paradise shelduck, pukeko, welcome swallow.

Significance

None of the ecological units present are representative of their types, because the remnants are small, and often grazed. However, this site does provide habitat for indigenous waterbirds (e.g. paradise shelduck, pukeko). It also provides a catchment protection function, in a landscape where very little riparian vegetation remains.

PIROA ROAD FOREST REMNANTS 1

Survey no.	Q08/071
Survey date	14 November 2005
Grid reference	Q08 345 678
Area	11.0 ha (10.6 ha forest, 0.4 ha wetland)
Altitude	80–120 m asl

Ecological units

(a) Taraire forest on moderate hillslope (70%)

(b) Kahikatea-totara forest on moderate hillslope (25%)

(c) Open water (constructed freshwater farm pond) (4%)

(d) *Juncus sarophorus* rushland on constructed pond fringe (1%)

Landform/geology

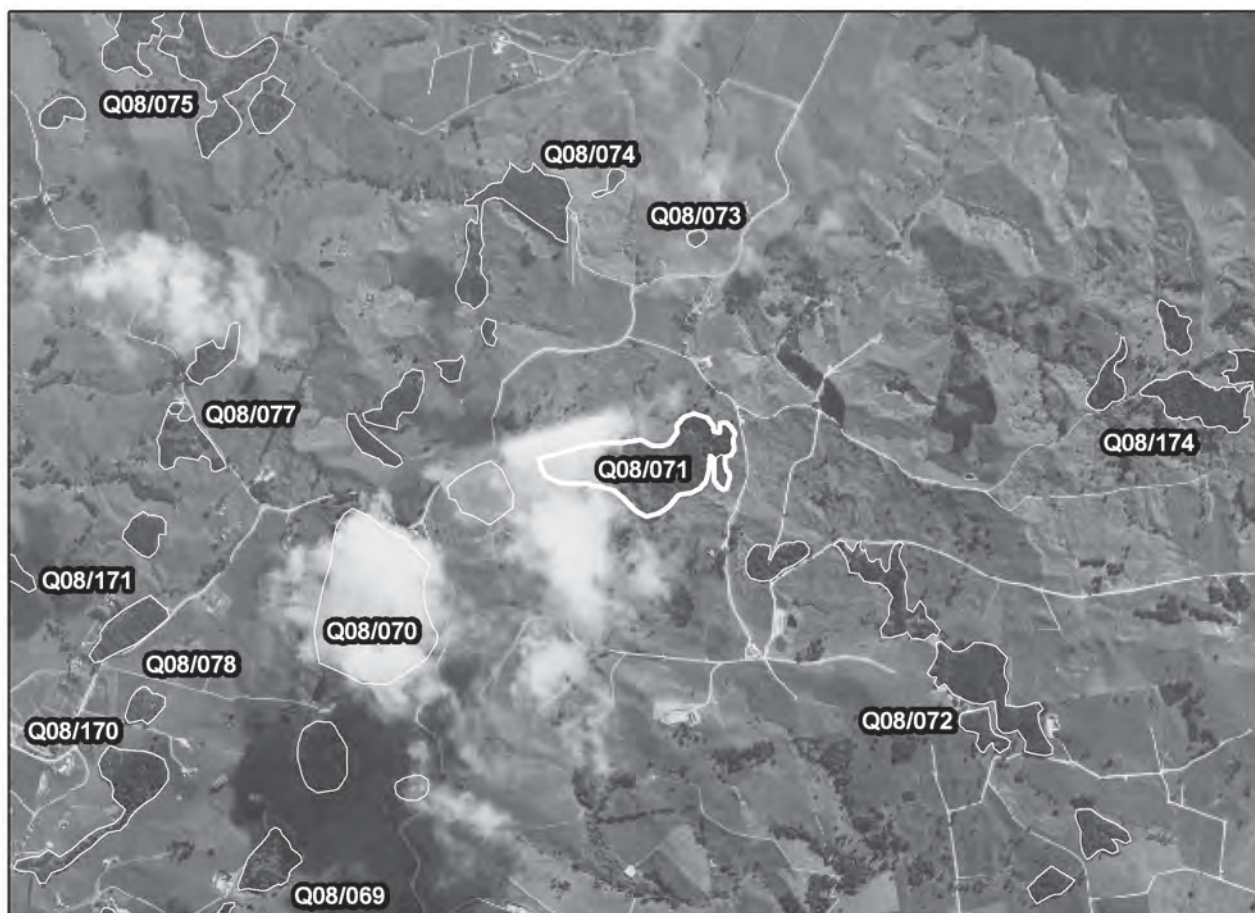
Hillslopes and gullies underlain by melange (undifferentiated Mangakahia & Motatau Complex lithologies).

Vegetation

This site comprises an indigenous forest remnant next to a constructed farm pond in the upper catchment of the Wairau River. The surrounding landscape is farmed, and the forest remnant appears to be at least partially fenced to exclude livestock.

(a) The main forest type is distinctive for the abundance of taraire trees in the canopy, and in particular for their large size and maturity. Frequent associates are puriri and nikau, while scattered individuals of pukatea, tarata, rewarewa and rimu also occur.

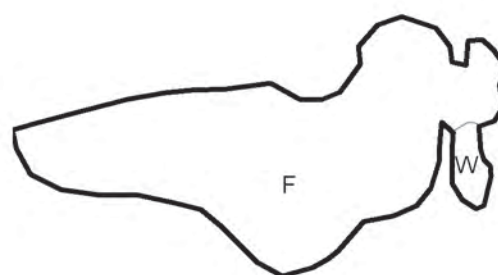
(b) Abundant kahikatea with common occurrence of totara in the canopy is present in distinct areas within type (a) taraire forest. Puriri is frequent here also.



Q08/071 Piroa Road Forest Remnant 1

S = Shrubland
 F = Forest
 W = Wetland
 E = Estuarine

0 250 500 1,000 Metres



(c) A large farm pond is present on the eastern side of the forest.

(d) The only marginal indigenous vegetation on the pond is scattered *Juncus sarophorus*.

Fauna

Not surveyed.

Significance

This site does not contain representative examples of any of its ecological units, but provides habitat for forest and waterbirds, and fulfils a catchment protection function.

PIROA FARM POND

Survey no. Q08/073
Survey date 14 November 2005
Grid reference Q08 346 686
Area 0.3 ha
Altitude 135 m asl

Ecological units

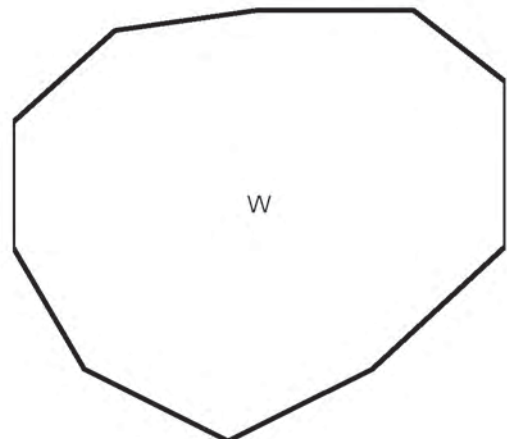
- (a) Open water (constructed freshwater farm pond) (95%)
- (b) Raupo reedland on constructed pond fringe (5%)



Q08/073 Piroa Farm Pond

S = Shrubland
F = Forest
W = Wetland
E = Estuarine

0 250 500 1,000 Metres



Landform/geology

Man-made pond/lake.

Vegetation

A small area of raupo fringes a constructed farm pond in an upper catchment area within 1 km of the nearest indigenous forested areas (i.e. Q08/071 Piroa Road Forest Remnant 1 and Q08/074 Upper Ahuroa River Forest Remnants 2).

Fauna

Pukeko.

Significance

Though small, this site was identified as a natural area due to the presence of wetland habitat suitable for indigenous waterbird species (i.e. raupo). These habitats are extremely reduced in Otamatea ED Northland and are now mainly represented by constructed lakes and ponds.

UPPER AHUROA RIVER FOREST REMNANTS 2

Survey no.	Q08/074
Survey date	14 November 2005
Grid reference	Q08 338 684 (6 remnants)
Area	10.1 ha
Altitude	100–160 m asl

Ecological units

- (a) Totara-kanuka forest on moderate to steep hillslope (70%)
- (b) Kauri forest on ridge top and moderate hillslope (30%)

Landform/geology

Hillslopes and gullies underlain by Cretaceous sandstone and mudstone (E59 Mangakahia Complex).

Vegetation

This site encompasses scattered forest remnants on the steeper parts of the upper Ahuroa River catchment comprising two main vegetation types:

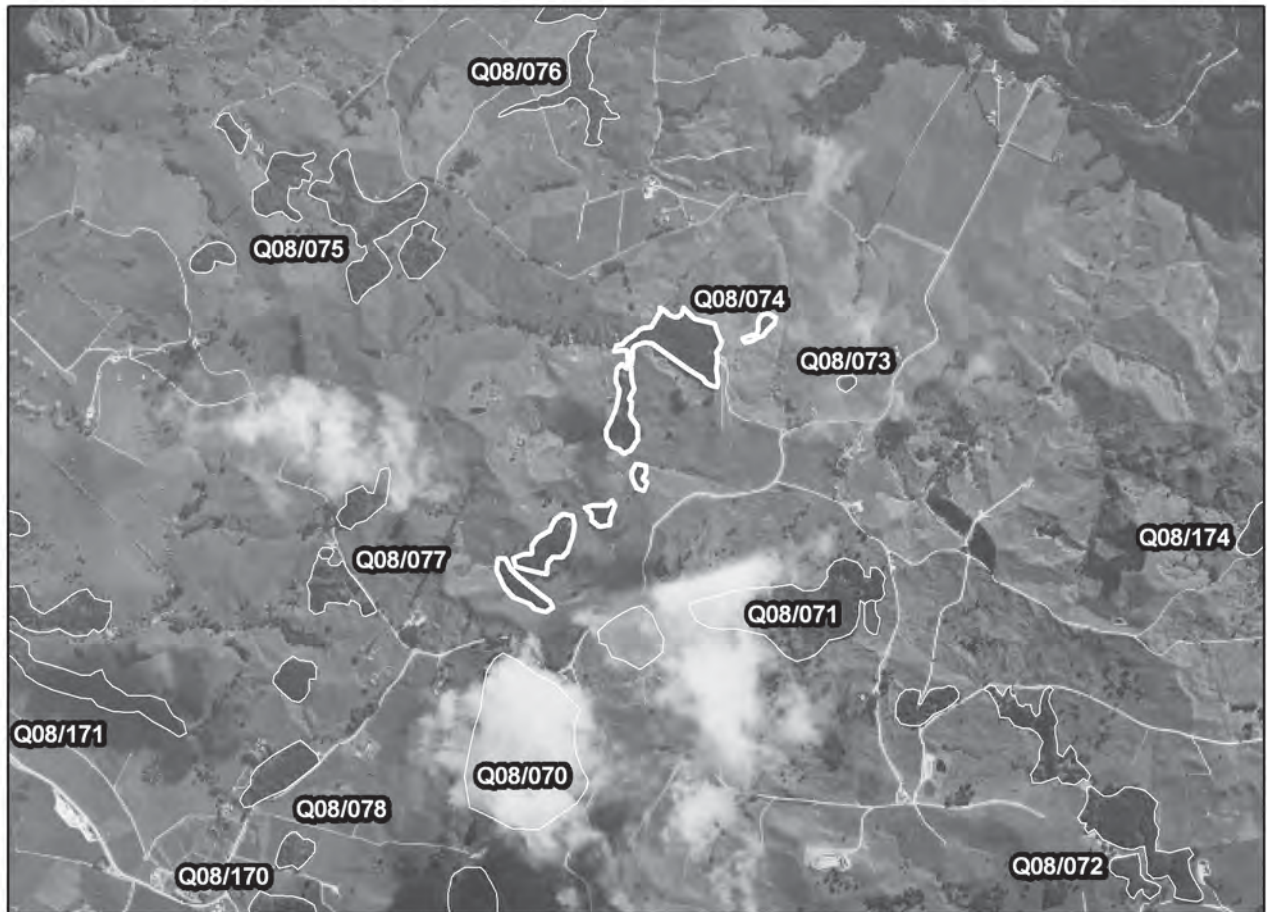
- (a) Forest with abundant totara and subdominant kanuka, and frequent occurrence of rimu, kauri and taraire. Local tanekaha also occur.
- (b) Dense stands of kauri rickers on the highest points. Rimu of a similar age and growth form also occur frequently amongst the kauri.

Fauna

Not surveyed.

Significance

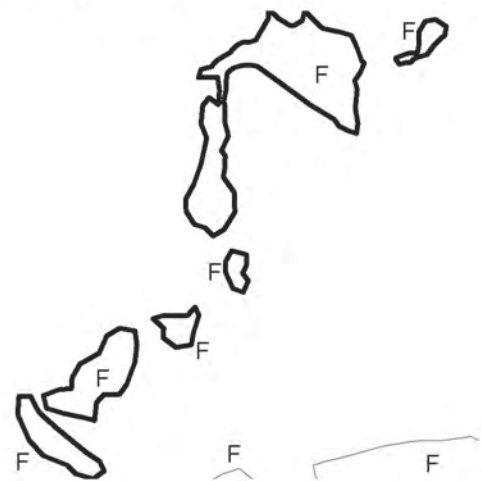
Neither of these ecological units is the best representative example of its type. The level of clearance and grazing disturbance limits this site's significance.



Q08/074 Upper Ahuroa River Forest Remnants 2

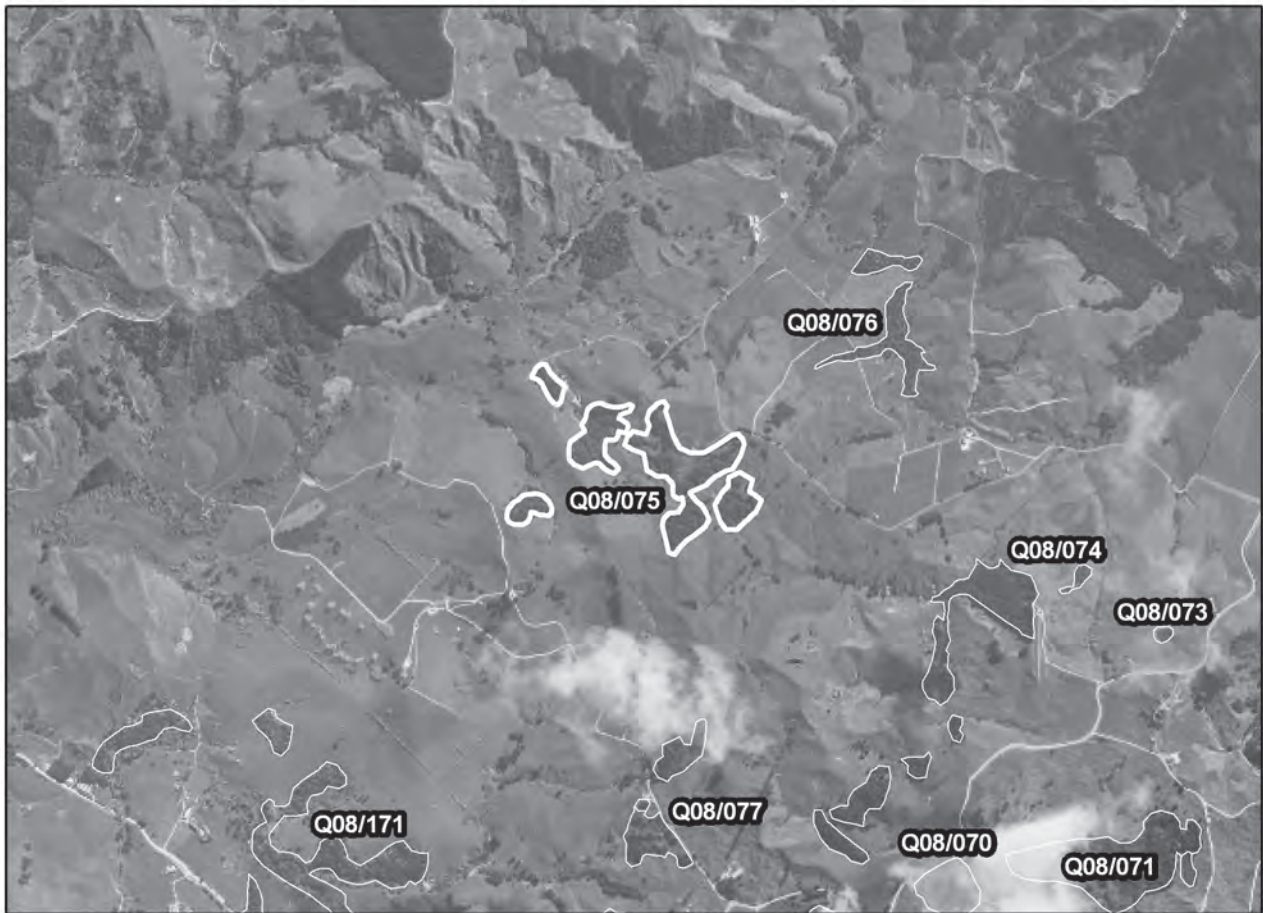
S = Shrubland
 F = Forest
 W = Wetland
 E = Estuarine

0 250 500 1,000 Metres



DODD ROAD FOREST REMNANTS

Survey no.	Q08/075
Survey date	14 November 2005
Grid reference	Q08 329 691 (5 remnants)
Area	12.8 ha
Altitude	80-140 m asl



Q08/075 Dodd Road Forest Remnants

S = Shrubland
 F = Forest
 W = Wetland
 E = Estuarine

0 250 500 1,000 Metres



Ecological units

- (a) Kahikatea-totara forest on gentle hillslope (50%)
- (b) Totara treeland on gentle hillslope (50%)

Landform/geology

Hillslopes and gullies underlain by Cretaceous sandstone and mudstone (Mangakahia Complex), and Oligocene micritic limestone (Mahurangi Limestone, Motatau Complex).

Vegetation

This site is at the very northern end of the ED and is near areas of indigenous forest in Waipu ED. It encompasses scattered indigenous forest remnants on the

western side of Dodd Road, in the upper catchment of the Ahuroa River. Many of these were not clearly visible from the road, hence their composition has been interpreted using recent aerial photography (flown in 2002).

(a) Half of the remnants appear to have a continuous canopy of totara and kahikatea with occasional kauri and ti kouka.

(b) The other half of the site appears to comprise patchily distributed totara treeland.

Fauna

Not surveyed.

Significance

Both ecological units appear to contain common species and are not representative examples of their types. The site is heavily grazed and reduced to small remnants, which limits its significance. This site does, however, provide some riparian protection for the upper Ahuroa River.

UPPER AHUROA RIVER FOREST REMANTS 1

Survey no.	Q08/076
Survey date	14 November 2005
Grid reference	Q08 337 696 (2 remnants)
Area	4.2 ha
Altitude	120-134 m asl

Ecological unit

(a) Kanuka-kahikatea forest in gully (100%)

Landform/geology

Hillslopes and gullies underlain by Cretaceous sandstone and mudstone (Mangakahia Complex).

Vegetation

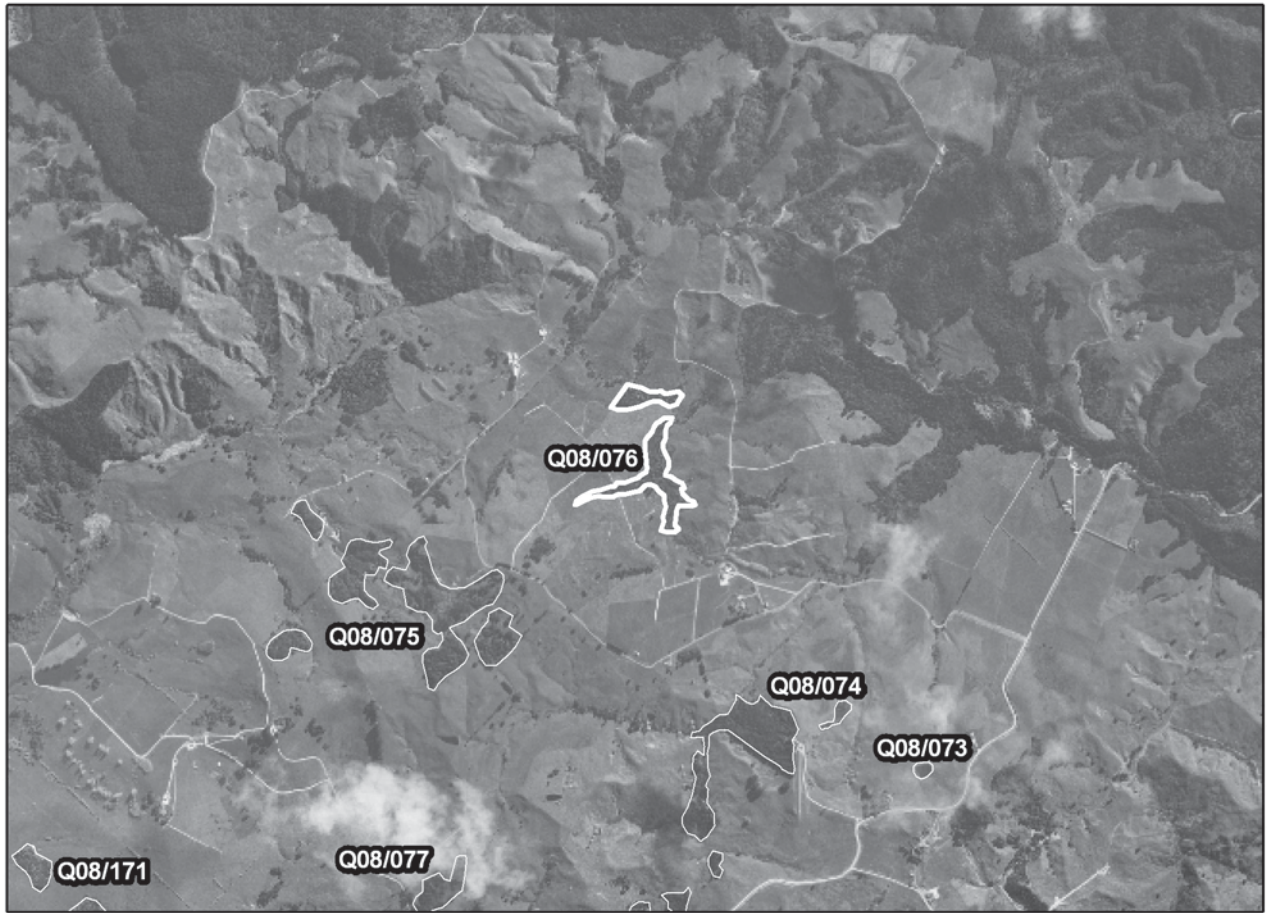
This site encompasses two small areas of sparse riparian forest on the upper Ahuroa River, set in a landscape of pastoral farming. Kanuka and kahikatea are common in the canopy with frequent kauri, rimu and mamaku and occasional totara. The remnants are not fenced and consequently have grazed understoreys.

Fauna

Not surveyed.

Significance

Visibility of this site was limited. There is insufficient current information to classify this remnant above Level 2. A 1977 New Zealand Wildlife Service survey recorded a much greater area of secondary forest here, some of which was contiguous with larger forest areas in Waipu ED (SSBI Q08/H050). The site was assessed as having potential as indigenous frog habitat (Hochstetter's frogs are known to occur in streams in the nearby Brynderwyn Range), however the current extent of forest is obviously much reduced, and any direct links across the ED boundary have since been cleared.



Q08/076 Upper Ahuroa River Forest Remnants 1

S = Shrubland
 F = Forest
 W = Wetland
 E = Estuarine

0 250 500 1,000 Metres



KIRK ROAD FOREST REMNANTS

Survey no.	Q08/077
Survey date	14 November 2005
Grid reference	Q08 329 679
Area	5.7 ha (2.5 ha forest, 3.2 ha wetland)
Altitude	88-147 m asl