



NATIVE FOREST REMNANTS OF

WELLINGTON CITY

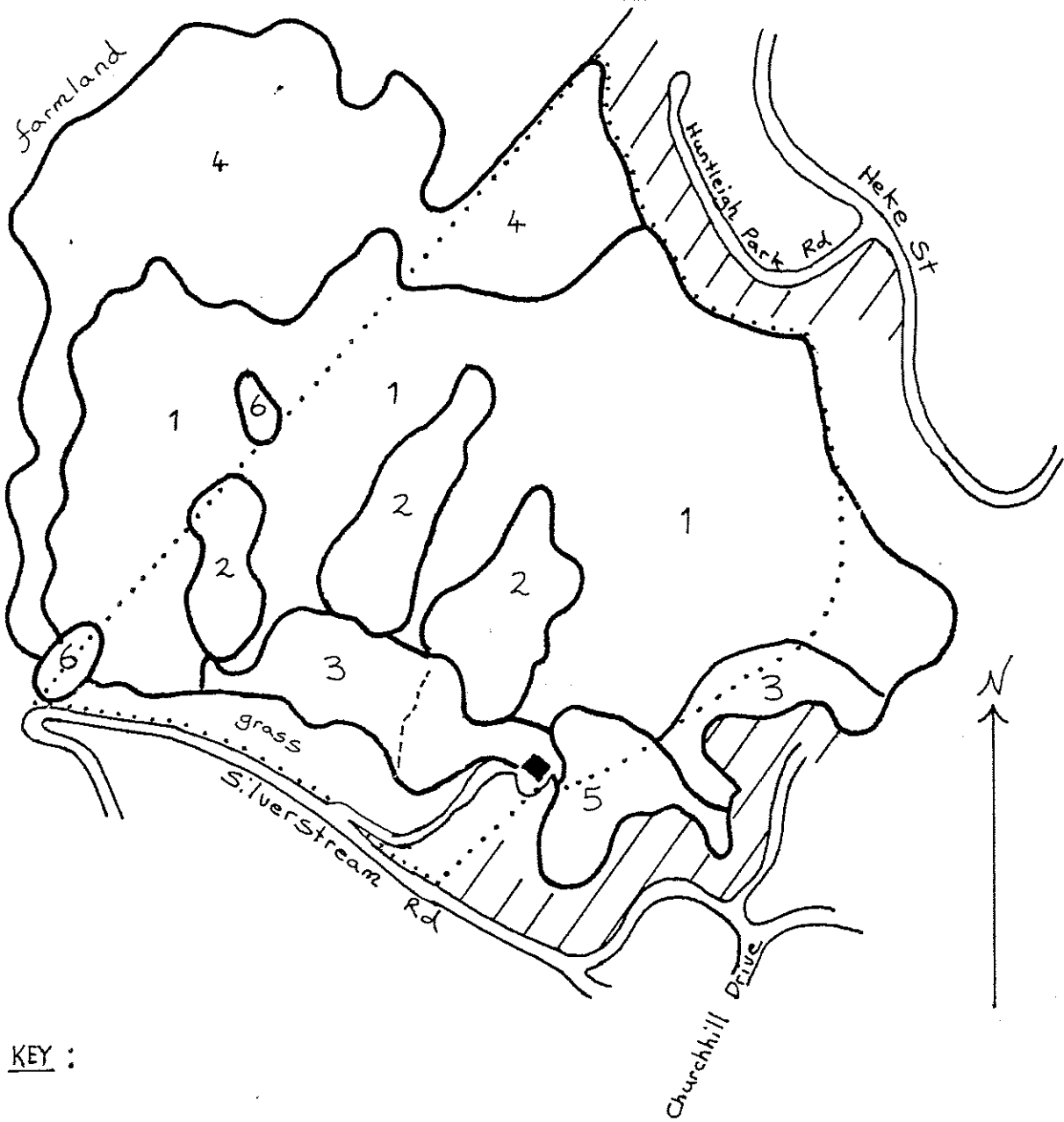
- A Survey of Five Sites

Shona C. Myers



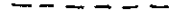
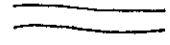


Biological Resources Centre,
DSIR, Wellington, New Zealand

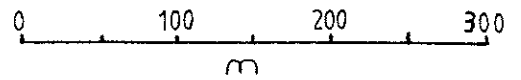
June 1985

MAP 4 Crofton Downs (Huntleigh Park)



KEY :

-  Indigenous Vegetation Boundaries
-  Huntleigh Park Boundary
-  Tracks
-  Roads
-  Residential Area
-  Girl Guide Hut



- For key to vegetation types refer to Biological Description

LOCATION

Covers hillside at back of Crofton Downs and Ngaio.

AREA DESCRIPTION

Huntleigh Park is a remnant of Wellington bush surrounded by subdivisions and by farmland to the N.W. The bush covers a moderately steep south facing hillside, buffered from farmland on the ridge by manuka scrub. Kohekohe-mahoe forest forms much of the canopy and a podocarp association occurs on the ridge crests.

ACCESS

Off Silverstream Road or Huntleigh Park Way, Crofton Downs.

AIR PHOTO

5497 C/8

AREA

Approx. 30 ha

CONTROL

W.C.C.

STATUS/CURRENT PROTECTION

The majority of Crofton Downs bush forms the Huntleigh Park reserve (status unknown) while the remaining areas are privately owned.

BIOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

Community Types

1. Kohekohe forest with mahoe and occasional emergent hinau, rewarewa and tawa. Fuchsia is common in stream valleys and kawakawa as an understorey species.
2. Podocarp (miro, rimu), rewarewa, hinau association. Mapou and kohekohe form the subcanopy. No obvious regeneration of podocarp species.
3. Regenerating broadleaved canopy of fivefinger, mahoe, lancewood and tree ferns.
4. Manuka scrub with gorse and tauhinu around the N.W. perimeter of the bush, backing onto farmland.
5. Gorse scrub.
6. Stand of exotic pines.

% area	Res Wgtn	native			ex	regen	NAT	trend	exotics
		1°	2°	ind					
52.3	YES		✓			H	H	S	L
9.1	YES		✓			M	H	S	L
7.8	YES		✓	✓		H	H	I	M
26.3	YES			✓		M	M	I	M
3.6	YES								
0.8	YES								

Comments on species

VALUES

Scientific

An example of Wellington Kohekohe-mahoe forest with good generation of species and intact understorey. Listed as a forested site of potential value for wildlife¹.

Scenic

Forms a scenic backdrop amongst a residential area.

Recreation

Is used by local residents, Girl Guide groups and public and by school groups for educational purposes. A Girl Guide hut is situated at the base of the reserve.

MODIFICATIONS AND TRENDS

This area at Crofton Downs was once cleared, probably for conversion to pasture, before reverting to native forest and scrub. Subdivision for housing has recently caused some of the area to the north-east to be cleared. This may also threaten the bush in the privately owned areas. The park receives quite high public use and adventive plant species have invaded on the residential boundaries. Native regeneration, however, is proceeding well and the bush is in good condition. The area of manuka scrub, along with fences, create an efficient buffer from the surrounding farmland.

THREATS

1. Soil slumping, silting of the streams and forest clearance caused by subdivisions on the northern boundary of the forest.
2. Spread of adventive plants, particularly *Clematis vitalba*, wandering jew, blackberry.
3. Public abuse and overuse, especially near housing on the edge.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

1. Management policies directed at protection of the native forest.
2. Improvement of existing tracks and development of others.
3. Checks and control on the spread of adventive plants.
4. Improved publicity and public information on the park.
5. Extension of park boundaries where possible.

COMMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS

The forest at Crofton Downs is an important area of secondary broadleaved forest with remnant podocarps on the ridge crests. It is close to the native forest at Ngaio Gorge, Otari Open Air Native Plant Museum and Khandallah. The forest is in good condition with a wide variety of species and is especially notable for its low number of exotic plants. Full protection of the forest and promotion of its scenic, recreational and educational value to the area is needed.

REFERENCES

1. Parrish, G.R. (1984). Wildlife and wildlife sites of the Wellington Region. N.Z. Wildlife Service Fauna Survey Unit Report No 38.

COMMON INDIGENOUS HIGHER PLANTS OF CROFTON DOWNS FOREST

(HUNTLEIGH PARK)

Trees and Shrubs

SCIENTIFIC NAME	MAORI/Common NAME
<i>Alectryon excelsus</i>	titoki
<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>	wineberry
<i>Beilschmiedia tawa</i>	tawa
<i>Brachyglottis repanda</i>	rangiora
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputaweta
<i>Cassinia leptophylla</i>	tauhinu
<i>Coprosma areolata</i>	
<i>C. grandifolia</i>	raurekau
<i>C. lucida</i>	karamu
<i>C. rhamnoides</i>	
<i>C. robusta</i>	
<i>C. spathulata</i>	karamu
<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	karaka
<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea
<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu
<i>Dysoxylum spectabile</i>	kohekohe
<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hinau
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i>	kotukutuku
<i>Geniostoma ligustrifolium</i>	hangehange
<i>Griselinia lucida</i>	puka
<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	pigeonwood
<i>Hoheria populnea</i>	houhere, lacebark
<i>Knightea excelsa</i>	rewarewa
<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	manuka
<i>Lophomyrtus bullata</i>	ramarama
<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	mahoe
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	ngaio
<i>Myrsine australis</i>	mapou
<i>Olearia rani</i>	heketara
<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	kaikomako
<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	tarata, lemonwood
* <i>P. ralphii</i>	
<i>P. tenuifolium</i>	kohuhu
<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	totara
<i>Prumnopitys ferrugineus</i>	miro
<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	five-finger
<i>P. crassifolius</i>	lancewood
<i>Schefflera digitata</i>	pate
<i>Urtica ferox</i>	ongaonga

Climbers and Lianes

<i>Metrosideros fulgens</i>	<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>
<i>M. perforata</i>	<i>Rubus cissoides</i>
<i>Muehlenbeckia complexa</i>	
<i>Parsonsia heterophylla</i>	

Grasses and like Plants

Microlaena avenacea
Uncinia uncinata

Herbs

Hydrocotyle moscata
Pterostylis banksii

Ferns

Adiantum cunninghamii
Asplenium bulbiferum
A. flaccidum
A. oblongifolium
Blechnum chambersii
B. discolor
B. filiforme
B. fluviatile
B. membranaceum
Cyathea dealbata
C. medullaris
Histiopteris incisa

Hymenophyllum demissum
Lastreopsis hispida
L. velutina
Leptopteris hymenophylloides
Pellaea rotundifolia
Phymatosorus diversifolius
P. scandens
Pneumatopteris pennigera
Polystichum richardii
Pteridium esculentum
Pyrrrosia serpens

* native species outside natural range

Common Adventive Plants

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Clematis vitalba
Cytisus scoparius
Rubus fruticosus
Selaginella sp.
Tradescantia fluminensis
Ulex europaeus

COMMON NAME

Old Man's beard
Yellow flowered broom
blackberry
wandering jew
gorse