

**Integrating native biodiversity**

# OUR PLAN

**Adjacent areas of native vegetation:**

*Note if any areas of native vegetation adjoin the property or are located in close proximity including both public conservation land and areas on other farms. Where possible include these on the farm map (below).*

**General trends in native birds:**


*Note if bellbird, tui, kereru, karearea, and ruru are generally seen / heard around the farm and whether their populations seem to be declining, stable, or increasing.*

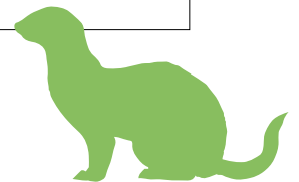
**General trends and animal pests and weeds:**

*Note any particular animal pests or weeds that affect the farm or may potentially affect the farm in the near future and whether they are in decline, stable, or increasing.*



**Farm map:** Mark and number discrete areas of native vegetation on an aerial photo of your farm and then fill in the following assessment sheets for each native vegetation patch.



# Farm Biodiversity Assessment - Individual Sites

BT2

For each discrete area of native vegetation record the following

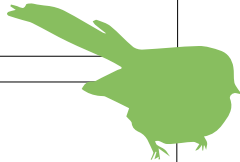
**Native vegetation patch number/name:**

<b>Assessor:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Weather:</b>	<b>Time taken:</b>

<b>Area (approximate):</b>	<1 ha	1-2 ha	2-5 ha	5-10 ha	>10 ha
<b>Altitude range (m):</b>					

**Physiography (including slopes and aspects):**

**Asset map:**  
*Field drawing of vegetation patch showing route traversed, areas of interest (streams, fencelines, bluffs etc) and locations where photos were taken.*



**Vegetation summary** – circle as many as appropriate

*(for patches with > one unit, indicate for each)*

**Type:** Forest    Shrubland    Wetland    Grassland    Rock outcrop

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Origin:** Remnant of original    Secondary/regenerating

**Canopy cover:**    Continuous (>70%)    Diffuse (15-70%)

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**Additional vegetation type** (  % **of vegetation patch area**)

**Type:** Forest    Shrubland    Wetland    Grassland    Rock outcrop

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Origin:** Remnant of original    Secondary/regenerating

**Canopy cover:**    Continuous (>70%)    Diffuse (15-70%)

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**Type:** Forest    Shrubland    Wetland    Grassland    Rock outcrop

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Origin:** Remnant of original    Secondary/regenerating

**Canopy cover:**    Continuous (>70%)    Diffuse (15-70%)

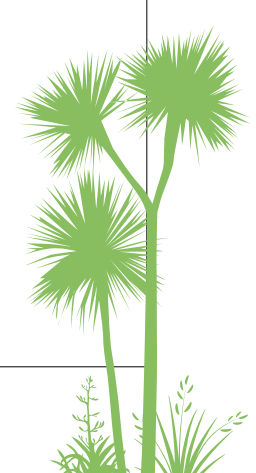
**Dominant native plants:**

**Canopy (height & diameters):**

**Understorey and ground layer:**

**Known rare plant species:**

**Other native plant species:**

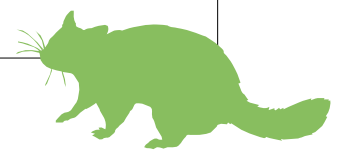


**Canopy condition/damage (all vegetation types):**

*Include evidence of dieback and causes (possums, herbicide, rabbits/hares etc)*

**Understorey condition/damage (forest and shrubland):**

*Include evidence of browse by domestic livestock and feral animals. Consider how vigorous regeneration is and the extent that palatable species are represented.*



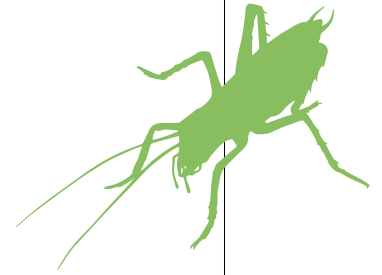
**Native birds seen/heard:**

**Native reptiles seen or suspected to be present:**

**Native fish seen:**

**Native invertebrates seen:**

**Other native fauna (bats):**



**Soil disturbance & erosion (all vegetation types):**

*Presence/absence of litter, pugging, sheet or tunnel gully erosion, soil turnover by pigs, browse etc*

**Evidence of fire impacts (if any):**

*Include evidence of both historic or recent fires*

**Modification to hydrology (wetlands, streams, riparian habitats):**

*Has the hydrology been modified through damming, diversion or realignment of water courses?  
Indicate modifications on the sketch of the patch.*

**Presence of fences and condition:**

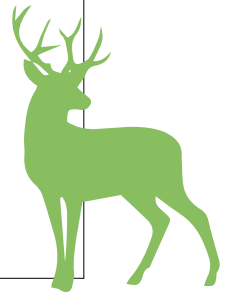
*Is the patch fenced and for those fences that are present, what is their condition? Indicate  
fencing on the sketch of the patch.*

**Exotic predators (seen/sign):**

*Sign or other evidence of mustelids, rodents, cats, hedgehogs etc.*



**Exotic herbivores & omnivores (seen/sign) and severity of damage:**



*Sign or other evidence of deer, goats, pigs, wallabies, possums etc.*

**Wasps (presence and abundance):**

*Presence and abundance of wasps, especially in late summer.*

**Weed presence/abundance and severity of infestation**

**Shrub/tree weeds:**

**Vine weeds:**

**Ground cover weeds:**

**Human impacts/management:**

*Trampling and damage to vegetation, garden waste, rubbish, evidence of timber harvesting etc. Any evidence of past/current conservation management – e.g. planting, plant and animal pest control etc*



**Summary score for each patch (circle the most appropriate category)**

**Patch attributes**

Current condition	degraded	average	good
Relative size	v small	medium	large
Connectivity	v isolated	gaps not too big	well connected
Diversity	v few species	lower than expected	high
Rare/distinctive species	none	some importance	high importance

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**Management required**

Fencing needed	lots	some	none
Weed control	lots	some	none
Deer/goats/pigs	lots	some	none
Predators	lots	some	none

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**Value to farm**

Provides shelter	high	medium	low
Stock water access	high	medium	low
Cultural values	high	medium	low
Recreation	high	medium	low
Water regulation	high	medium	low
Timber, honey etc	high	medium	low
Sediment reduction	high	medium	low
Food gathering	high	medium	low

**Is the asset considered ecologically significant in the district plan, or might it meet the plans' criteria for ecological significance? (in your view or the views of your farm team)**



# Recording sheets for birds

BT3

Information	Species	Numbers observed
Date:		
Time:		
Location and description: (GPS reference if possible)		
Habitat:		
Approximate elevation:		
Photo		

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Date:		
Time:		
Location and description: (GPS reference if possible)		
Habitat:		
Approximate elevation:		
Photo		

Information	Species	Numbers observed
Date:		
Time:		
Location and description: (GPS reference if possible)		
Habitat:		
Approximate elevation:		
Photo		



## Recording sheet for native invertebrates, lizards and bats

BT4

Information	Species	Numbers observed
Date:		
Time:		
Location and description: (GPS reference if possible)		
Habitat:		
Approximate elevation:		
Photo		

Information	Species	Numbers observed
Date:		
Time:		
Location and description: (GPS reference if possible)		
Habitat:		
Approximate elevation:		
Photo		

Information	Species	Numbers observed
Date:		
Time:		
Location and description: (GPS reference if possible)		
Habitat:		
Approximate elevation:		
Photo		





# Photo-point Record Data Sheet

BT6

Use this sheet to record all of the data from each photo-point assessment location.

Site name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_ Camera type: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Number(s)	GPS coordinates	Compass bearing	Time	Notes

Site name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_ Camera type: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Number(s)	GPS coordinates	Compass bearing	Time	Notes

Site name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_ Camera type: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Number(s)	GPS coordinates	Compass bearing	Time	Notes

Site name: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_ Camera type: \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Number(s)	GPS coordinates	Compass bearing	Time	Notes