

INA_52 – Woolley River – Maruia (133.1766 ha)

Protected Area(s)	Area (ha)	NaPALIS #	# of Primary Parcels
Conservation Area - Woolley River - Maruia	133.1766	2807486	1

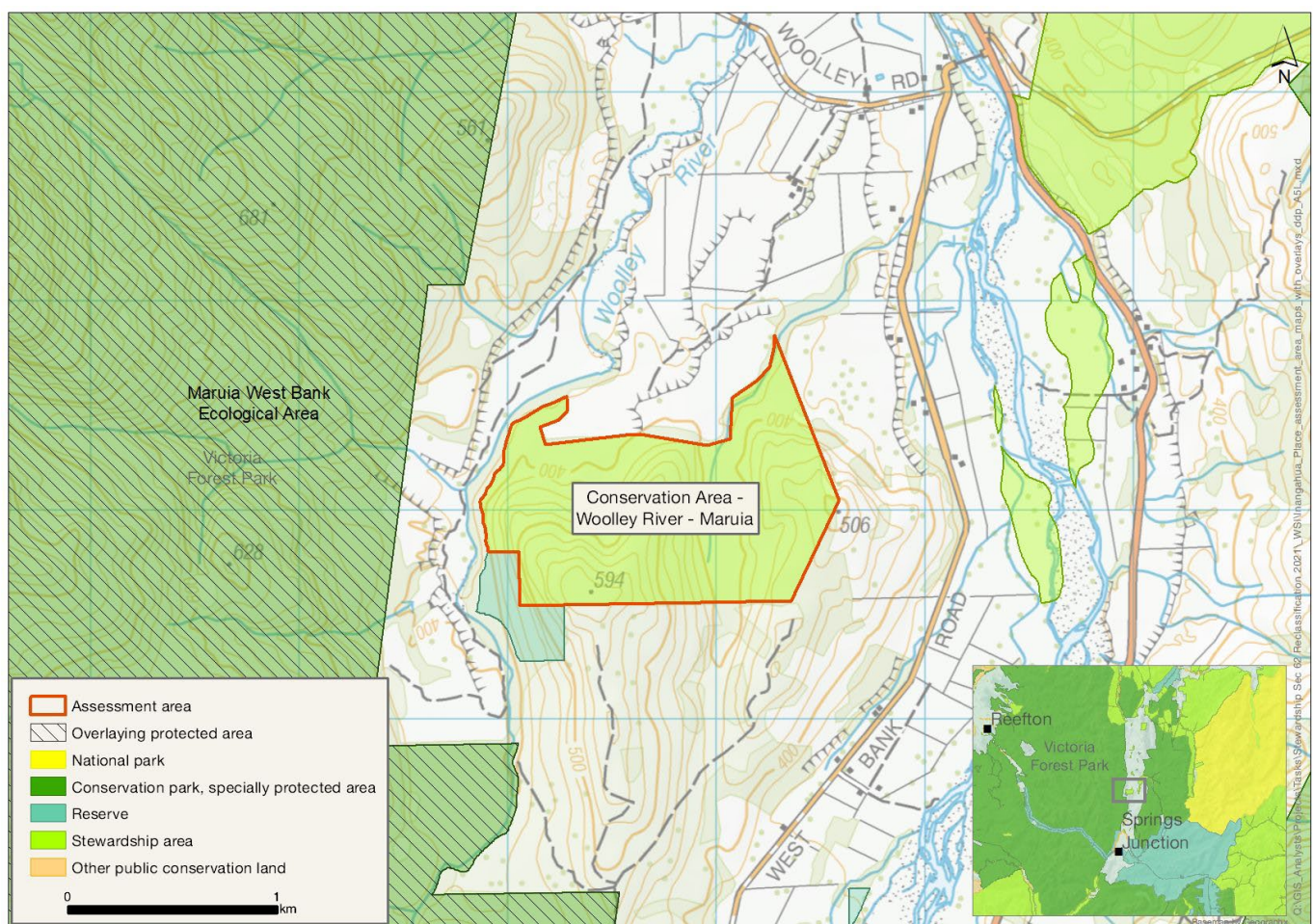
Location

Adjacent to Woolley River in the Maruia valley, south of Maruia.

Brief Description

A moderate sized area of hillslope forest adjacent to Woolley River in the Maruia valley. There is no easy access to this area as it is surrounded by freehold properties. Although there are no records of freshwater fish/invertebrates within the stream, water quality is predicted to be high, and the catchment very natural. Several threatened species have been recorded and may be present. There are no tracks or facilities in the area, and it is likely to receive little recreation use. No permissions, or historical interest.

Map



Ngāi Tahu Values and Interests

Mo tātou, a, mo ka uri, a muri ake nei – for us and our children after us

From the preliminary desk top assessments, there do not appear to be any site specific Ngāi Tahu values identified. However, there is a deep connection between Ngāi Tahu and all of the whenua in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā, and the absence of site-specific values in the preliminary analysis does not detract from that connection, nor does it confirm that site specific values are not present. Further, a section 4 Conservation Act and Te Tiriti principles perspective is required as well, and it may be that areas of land are significant to Ngāi Tahu from that broader perspective. To avoid doubt, nothing in the proposed classification affects, limits or derogates from the rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu over its takiwā, including in relation to freshwater; and/or any other rights or interests Ngāi Tahu may have.

Ecological Values

Representativeness

The area is hillslope forest extending from alluvial flats at 380 m up to 594 m, near the western margin of the Reefton Ecological District. It is 133 ha of (native) forested land, separated from Victoria Forest Park by 400 m of private land. The boundary with adjacent farmland does not appear to be fenced. A small waterway flows through the block – this small stream has a forested catchment within the area, and a healthy riparian buffer comprised of trees and shrubs between the edge of this area and Maruia River, where it flows through farmland.

Diversity and pattern

The area is totally forest covered and includes alluvial flats along Woolley River, a gully, and gentle to moderately steep hillslopes. The area has a range of aspects, and a single level 4 land environment unit. Although there are no records of freshwater fish/invertebrates in the stream, water quality is predicted to be high, and the catchment very natural. The neighbouring tributary (to the north) is habitat for dwarf galaxias (*Galaxias divergens*) and is managed as a species management unit.

Rarity and distinctiveness

Several threatened species have been recorded from nearby areas within the Maruia valley and may be present. These include the forest gecko (*Mokopirirakau granulatus*) (At Risk: Declining), West Coast green gecko (*Naultinus tuberculatus*) (Nationally Vulnerable), and northern grass skink (common skink, *Oligosoma polychroma*). Also recorded are the shrubs bloodwood (*Coprosma wallii*) and *Meliccytus flexuosus*, and scarlet mistletoe (pirita, *Peraxilla colensoi*) (all At Risk: Declining).

There are no records of native freshwater fish here, but depending on flow level and other habitat features within this small stream, it could offer habitat to dwarf galaxias (At Risk: Declining) and other species found in similar habitats nearby, including upland bully (West Coast) (*Gobiomorphus breviceps*) (Not Threatened), longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) (At Risk: Declining) and kōura (freshwater crayfish, *Paranephrops planifrons*).

Ecological context

This area adjoins the Woolley River Scenic Reserve and forms part of a larger forest area (mainly private land) that joins with the extensive Victoria Forest Park. The western slopes of this block of indigenous forest flank the true right of Woolley River, which is important habitat for dwarf galaxias. There are no records of freshwater

fauna within the stream that flows through this area, but this waterway has a high level of naturalness and water quality, and probably offers habitat to a range of species.

Recreation Values

Setting

This area is in a backcountry-remote zone. There are no tracks or facilities in the area.

Visitor type and activities typically undertaken

The area is likely to receive little recreation use.

Access

No easy access to this area. Surrounded by freehold properties.

Heritage Values

Historical overview

No historic sites or heritage values recorded.

Permissions Summary

None recorded.

Map (aerial photo)

