



Proposed classifications of Outer Green Belt reserve land under the Reserves Act 1977

Public consultation 27 July – 23 August 2026

July 2026

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

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A. Have your say

Under the Reserves Act 1977, Wellington City Council is proposing to classify or reclassify 7 areas of reserve land ('sites') it owns in the city's Outer Green Belt.

The Council is seeking your views on the proposed classifications and will consider submissions when it decides on the classifications. A Council resolution¹ is required to classify the reserve land and the classification process is completed by publishing a notice in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

You can have your say by completing the online submission form or downloading a hard copy at wcc.nz/green-belt-reserves or emailing openspaceandrecreation@wcc.govt.nz. You can request to appear in person before the Council to support your written submission.

Submissions close midnight on 23 of August 2026.

About classification of reserve land

The Reserves Act 1977 provides "for the preservation and management for the benefit and enjoyment of the public", areas of New Zealand that have special features or values, including recreational, natural, scenic, historic, cultural, archaeological and community.

Section 16(1) of the Act requires that all reserve land be classified according to a primary purpose, as defined under sections 17-23: recreation, historic, scenic, nature, scientific, government purpose and local purpose. Note: Road reserve does not come under the Reserves Act.

Classification helps to identify the important values in each reserve and strengthen the protection and management of those values. It binds the Council and limits (to a greater or lesser extent) how the land can be used and the types of activities that can and cannot occur.

Occasionally, the original classification or purpose assigned to a reserve may no longer be the most appropriate. It can be changed under section 24 of the Reserves Act 1977. Usually, reclassifying a reserve will be for one or more of the following reasons:

- to emphasise one set of features (e.g. historic values) relative to another (e.g. natural values)
- to allow a new activity or use, which would not be consistent with the present class/type
- to better specify or alter the statutory objectives of management, or
- to make an existing use, that is inappropriate under the existing classification, allowable.

Our approach to managing and classifying reserves

In considering the appropriate classification for each site, we have looked at each site's existing use, features and open space values; opportunities and constraints for future management; its role within the Council's overall reserves network; and the objectives and policies in the relevant reserves management plan.²

The proposed classifications are for reserves managed under the *Outer Green Belt Management Plan* 2019. The Outer Green Belt is a corridor of public open space along the ridges that separate Wellington's urban and rural areas, that is managed for multiple environmental, recreational and social objectives. The management plan can be viewed at our city libraries or online at [Outer Green Belt Management Plan - Plans, policies and bylaws - Wellington City Council](#).

¹ The Council has delegated authority to declare land reserve (s.14); classify reserves (s.16); and change the classification or purpose of a reserve (s.24) under the Instrument of Delegation for Territorial Authorities dated 12 June 2013

² Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 requires that a management plan is prepared for all reserves, to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, preservation and development as appropriate for each reserve's classification.

How this document is set out

All the sites are proposed for Scenic Reserve classification – either type (a) or type (b) – which are briefly explained at the beginning of Section B. The details about each site then follow in Section C, including a site map showing the context in the immediate area, a description, notes about management and the proposed classification. A cross reference to the relevant part of the Outer Green Belt Management Plan is also shown.

What happens next

Once public feedback has been received, an oral hearing will be held if any submitters request to speak to their submission. The Council will then consider the proposals and resolve whether or not to approve the proposed classifications.

B. About scenic reserves

Section 19 of the Reserves Act provides for two types of scenic reserves and describes their purposes as follows:

Scenic reserves (a): “. . . protecting and preserving in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities of scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest”.

Scenic reserves (b): “. providing, in appropriate circumstances, suitable areas which by development and the introduction of flora, whether indigenous or exotic, will become of such scenic interest or beauty that their development, protection, and preservation are desirable in the public interest.”

Just Site 1, Huntleigh Park site is proposed for type (a) classification because of the high quality of its native forest. The remaining sites are proposed for type (b) because they have been considerably modified by past land clearance and the natural/scenic values are generally in a state of recovery. The following table summarise the main aspects of each.

Scenic Reserve (a) (Reserves Act s. 19 (1) (a))	
Management objectives (see s.19 (2))	Primary • Manage for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public • Preserve indigenous flora and fauna, biological associations and the natural environment as far as possible • Exterminate exotic flora and fauna as far as possible • Allow the public freedom of entry and access subject to conditions and restrictions necessary for the protection and wellbeing of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it Secondary – if applicable • Develop open portions for amenities and facilities where these are necessary to enable the public to obtain benefit and enjoyment from the reserve • Manage and protect historic, archaeological, geological, biological, or other scientific features • Maintain value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area.
Guidance for selection	• Area should contain one or more natural or associated cultural or

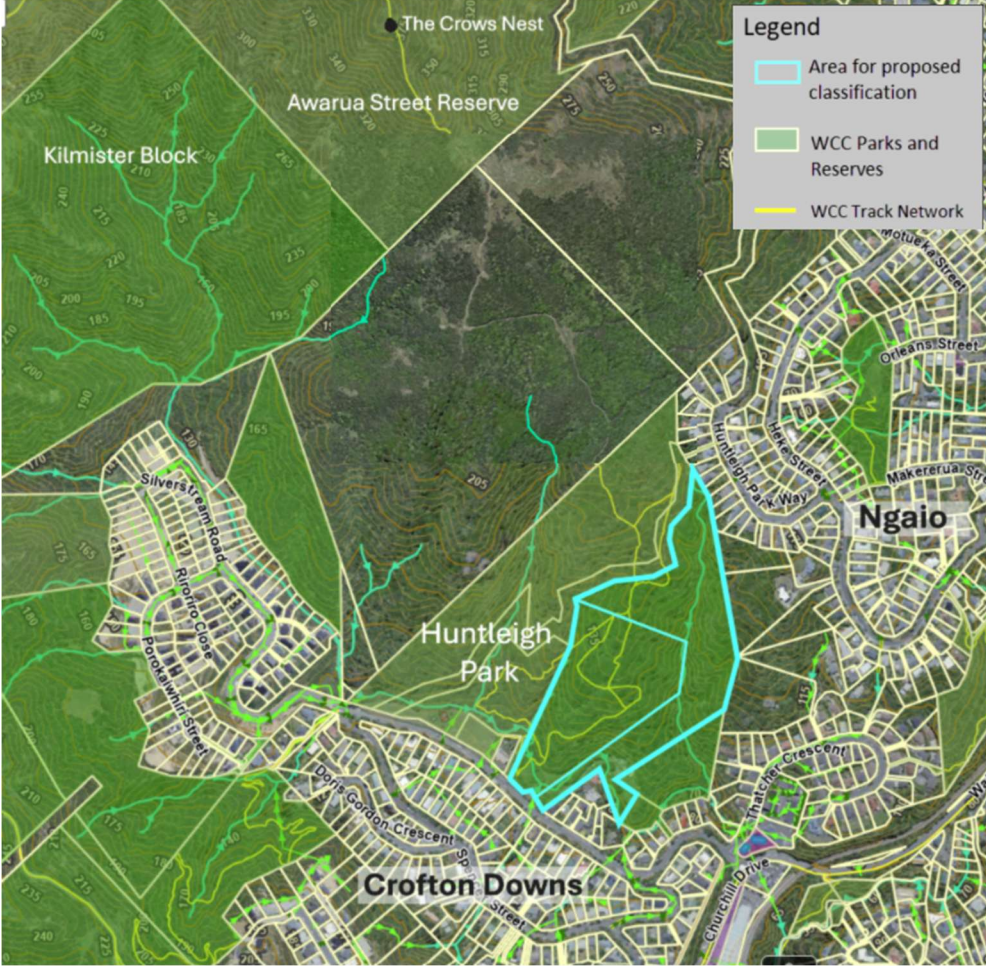
	heritage features of special significance, or natural landscape of high scenic quality Area should be large enough to protect the integrity of the features and its immediately related surroundings.
Implications on development	When development is anticipated, the Council makes decisions through the reserve management plan. Examples include public access and tracks, necessary structures and facilities e.g. seating, signs and fences.
Implications for the natural environment	When activities related to the natural environment are anticipated, the Council makes decisions through the reserve management plan. Examples include restoration planting and weed / pest animal control.
Scenic Reserve (b) (Reserves Act s. 19 (1) (b))	
Management objectives for scenic reserve (b) (s.19 (3))	Primary - Manage for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public - Preserve indigenous flora and fauna, biological associations and the natural environment as far as possible - Exterminate exotic flora and fauna as far as possible - Allow the public freedom of entry and access subject to conditions and restrictions necessary for the protection and wellbeing of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it. Secondary -if applicable - Develop open portions for amenities & facilities where these are necessary to enable the public to obtain benefit and enjoyment from the reserve - Manage and protect historic, archaeological, geological, biological, or other scientific features - Maintain value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area.
Guidance for selection	Degraded natural or semi-natural areas where the public interest warrants restoration or conversion as a scenic attraction.
Implications on development	When development is anticipated, the Council makes decisions through the reserve management plan. Examples include pedestrian and cycle access and tracks, necessary structures and facilities e.g. seating, signs and fences.
Implications for the natural environment	When activities related to the natural environment are anticipated, the Council makes decisions through the reserve management plan. Examples include restoration planting and weed / pest animal control.

If you want to find out about the three other types of reserve classification used for Wellington City Council Reserves but not proposed here, see 'Appendix: About non-Scenic Reserve Classifications' at the end of this document.

C. Classification proposals

1. Huntleigh Park (addition to), Ngaio / Crofton Downs

See *Outer Green Belt Management Plan 2019*, Management Sector 3; no map reference as land acquired after 2019.

Location	44 Silverstream Road, linking up to Huntleigh Park Way. 	
Legal description	Lot 2 DP 58339 and Lot 3 DP 17482 (Parcels: 3937900, 3792725)	Area: 6.9739 ha
Description	Former NZ Girl Guides land adjacent to Huntleigh Park. Protects part of the Silver Stream catchment, which flows into the Korimako Stream and then Kaiwharawhara Stream, which is culturally significant to mana whenua ³ . Silver Stream flows through the lower part of the site, bordered by low terraces. The rest is steep forest-covered hillside, including primary forest remnants and threatened-species habitat of regional and city significance, including a kaka nesting site. The whole site is within a Significant Natural Area ⁴ and the Mount Kaukau Significant Amenity Landscape ⁵ , reflecting multiple natural and landscape values. A driveway leads from Silverstream Road to a carpark near the stream. Vehicle access is restricted from the bridge beyond the carpark, but a new pedestrian bridge connects the	

³ Whenua Statutory Acknowledgement to Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust - Kaiwharawhara Stream.

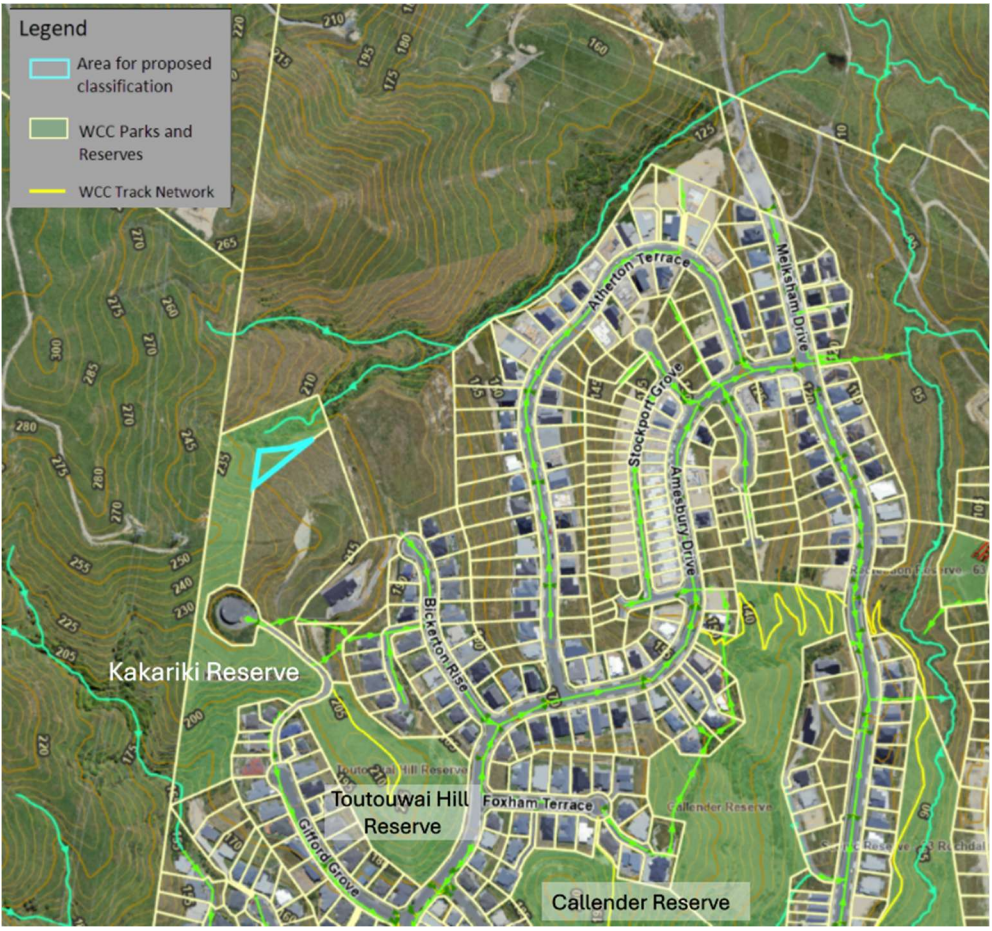
⁴ See Significant Natural Area WC060, Huntleigh Park & Surrounds, Wellington City 2024 District Plan.

⁵ See Special Amenity Landscape Schedule 11, Wellington City 2024 District Plan.

	walking access tracks that have been publicly accessible and maintained by Council for many years. Other structures, including the Guides' building, were removed before purchase.
Future intended management	Continue to protect the forest and stream values with weed and pest control and enhancement restoration planting where required. Rationalise the track network and maintain walking access between Silverstream Road and Huntleigh Park Way. Improve riparian planting in the streamside areas while maintaining open grassy areas for informal recreation e.g. picnicking.
Classification S. 14(1) & S.19(1)(a)	<i>Currently:</i> unclassified. Proposed classification: Scenic Reserve (a) to: 1. Protect and enhance the intrinsic ecological, catchment and landscape values; and 2. Provide for compatible public outdoor recreation and enjoyment.
Notes	The high quality of the forest ecosystem at the site justifies Scenic Reserve (a) classification, consistent with the classification of adjacent Huntleigh Park. Aligns with the <i>Kia Mouriora Te Kaiwharawhara</i> whole-of-catchment restoration of Te Kaiwharawhara. Land acquired in 2024 to add to the Outer Green Belt and classify scenic reserve.

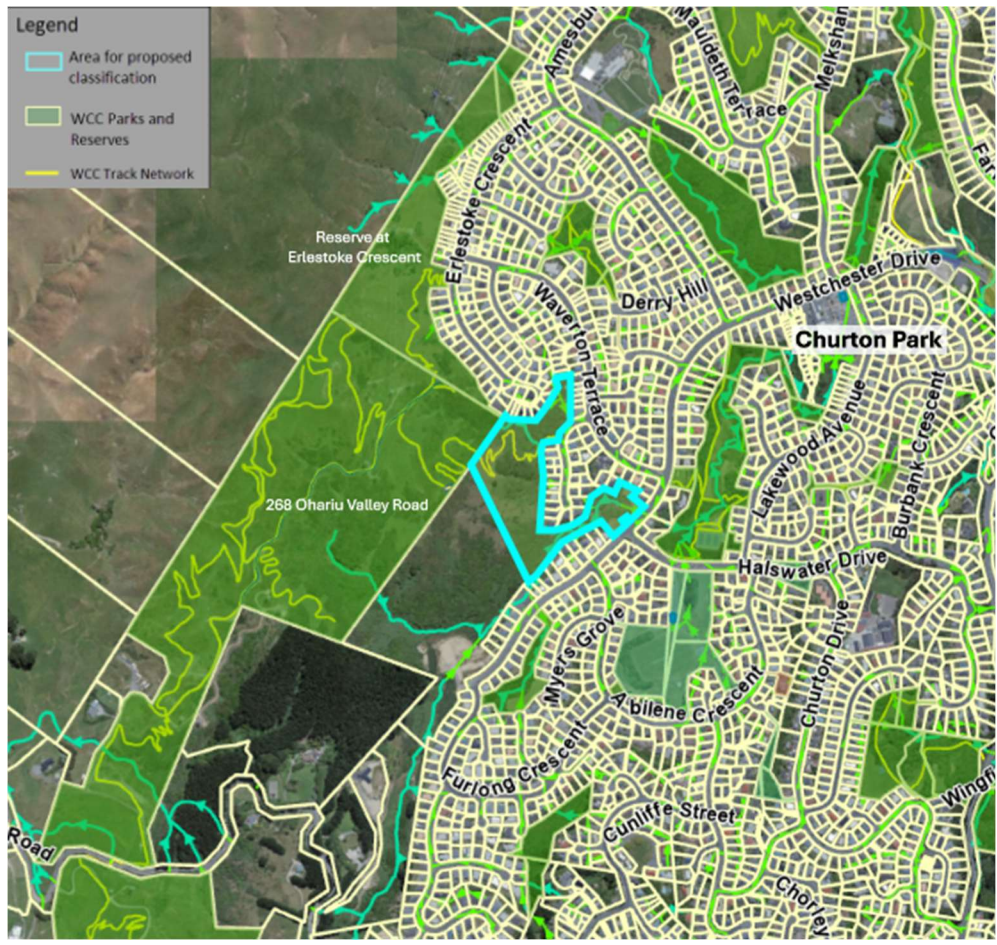
2. Kakariki Reserve, (addition to), Churton Park

See *Outer Green Belt Management Plan 2019* Management Sector 2, no map reference as land acquired after 2019, but adjacent land has map ref 2.1.1.

Location	31 Gifford Grove, on the west side of Stebbings Valley in Churton Park.	
		
Legal description	Lot 5 DP 524106 (<i>Parcel: 8214535</i>)	Area: 0.077 ha
Description	A small triangle of pasture-covered land that has been added to Kakariki Reserve through nearby residential subdivision. This and the adjoining reserve land slope down to a gully that forms the head of a small tributary of Stebbings Stream, which flows into Porirua Stream. The park was named in 2018 with reference to the native bird, kakariki.	
Future intended management	To restore native forest to the steep slopes and gully in this reserve to restore biodiversity and protect this part of the Stebbings Stream headwaters. Develop tracks as opportunities arise to extend and connect the recreational track network.	
Classification S.16(1) & S.19(1)(b)	<i>Currently:</i> vested for scenic reserve. Proposed classification: Scenic Reserve (b) to: 1. Protect and enhance the ecological, catchment and landscape values; and 2. Provide for compatible public outdoor recreation and enjoyment.	
Notes	Aligns with catchment management approach in the Te Riu o Porirua management unit of the <i>Porirua Harbour Accord</i> .	

3. 174 Westchester Drive, Churton Park

See *Outer Green Belt Management Plan 2019* Management Sector 2, map ref 2.1.6

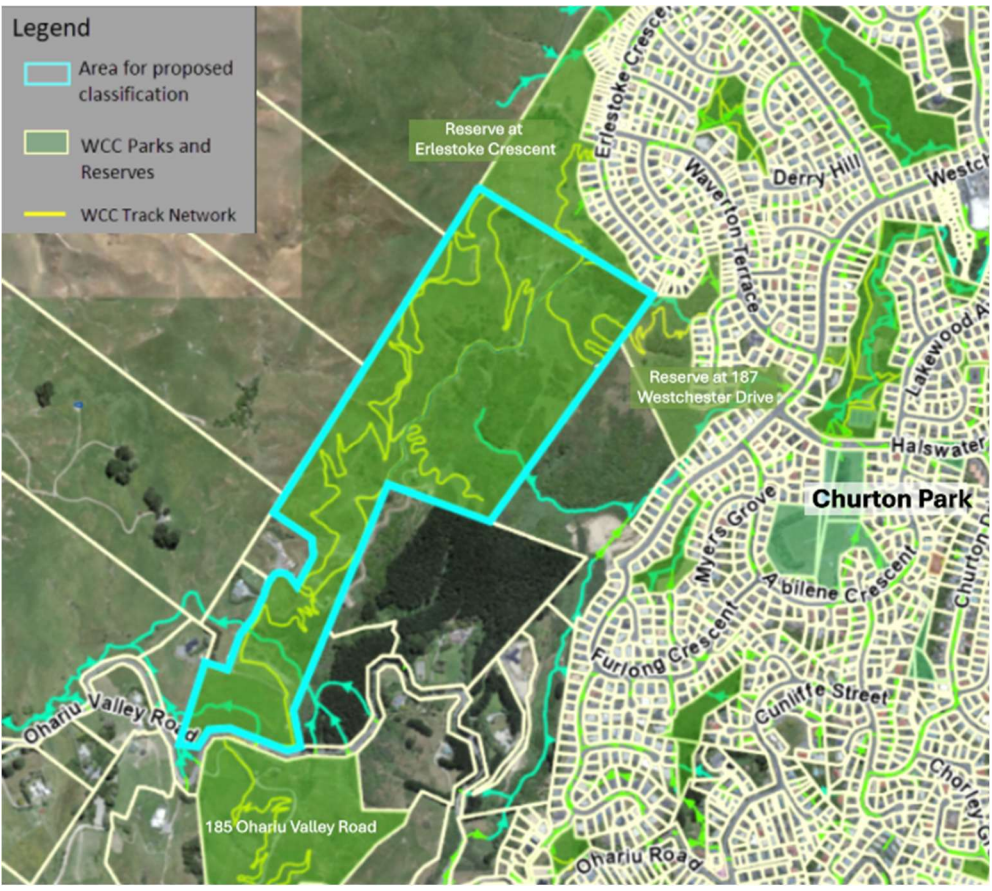
Location	On Ohariu Ridge, west of Churton Park 	
Legal description	Lot 14 Deposited Plan 435672 (Parcel: 7294311)	4.4763 ha
Description	Steep slopes on the lower flanks of Ohariu Ridge above housing in the vicinity of Westchester Drive and Chippenham Grove. Includes two small watercourses, the larger flowing through the site and across Westchester Drive to join the stream in Lakewood Reserve, which ultimately flows into Porirua Stream. Former farmland with three Significant Natural Area forest remnants⁶ as well as areas of riparian vegetation, a small stand of tall pines, areas of rough pasture and a flat mown area on the Westchester Drive frontage. Provides an immediate open space backdrop to nearby housing that also connects to adjoining Outer Green Belt reserve land on the ridge above. A track connects Chippenham Grove to the recently extended Skyline Track on the ridgetop.	
Future intended management	Continue to restore native forest to the gullies, slopes and the riparian edges of the streams to improve ecological connectivity along the ridgeline and protect this part of the Porirua Stream upper catchment.	
Classification S.16(1) &	<i>Currently:</i> vested for scenic reserve.	

⁶ See Significant Natural Area WC100, 'Westchester Drive Tawa Forest Remnants, Wellington City 2025 District Plan.

S.19(1)(b)	<i>Proposed classification: Scenic Reserve (b) to</i> 1. Protect and enhance the ecological, catchment and landscape values; and 2. Provide for compatible public outdoor recreation and enjoyment.
Notes	Aligns with catchment management approach in the Te Riu o Porirua management unit of the <i>Porirua Harbour Accord</i> .

4. 268 Ohariu Valley Road, Ohariu / Churton Park

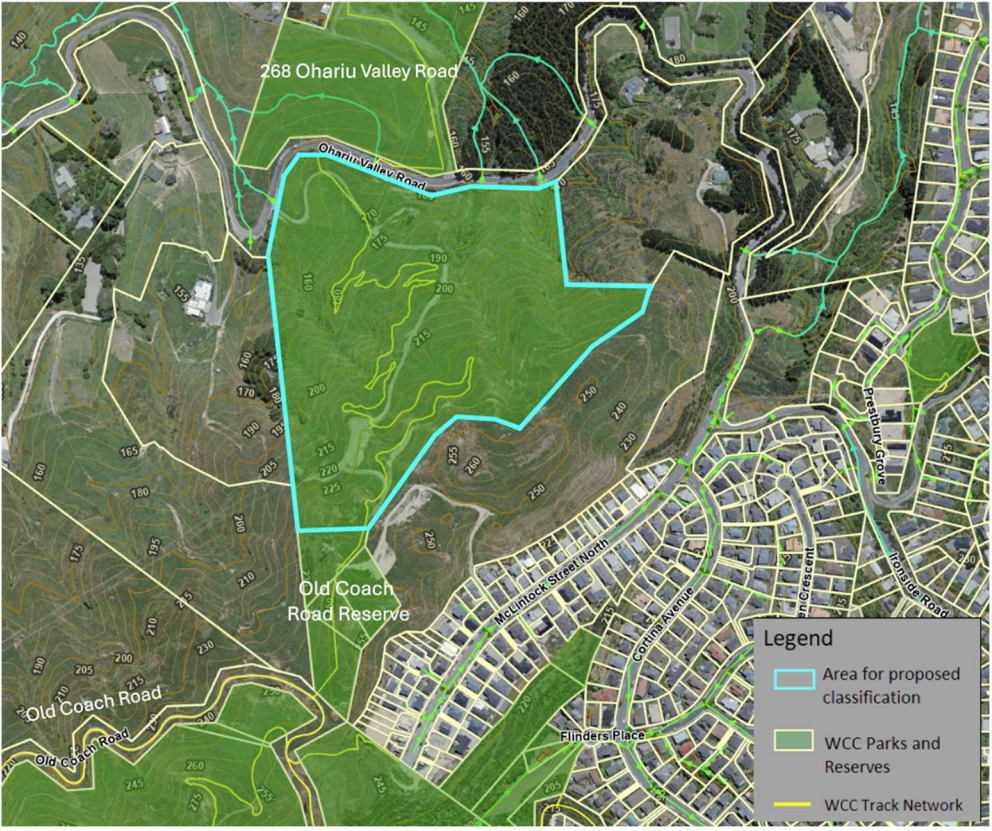
See *Outer Green Belt Management Plan 2019* Management Sector 2, map ref 2.1.7

Location	On Ohariu Ridge, west of Churton Park 	
Legal description	Lot 1 DP 508648 (Parcel: 7779190)	Area: 31.8604 ha
Description	This site includes ridgetop and upper flanks of Ohariu Ridge, north of Ohariu Valley Road. It includes the head of a small tributary stream in the Ohariu Stream catchment and a small watercourse that is part of the southwest catchment of Porirua Stream. Former farmland reverting to secondary vegetation, assisted by native forest restoration planting undertaken in partnership with Victoria University of Wellington through its 'Growing Our Future' living lab, which provides monitored research plots for students and researchers to collect long-term data and explore carbon farming options. Important open space backdrop to Churton Park with rocky outcrop features and hilltop viewpoints. Tracks developed in recent years have extended the Skyline Track from a new entrance at 268 Ohariu Valley Road along the ridgetop with connections through adjacent reserve land to Erlestoke Place and Chipenham Grove.	
Future intended management	Continue to restore native forest to the gullies, slopes and riparian areas to improve ecological connectivity along the ridgeline and protect upper catchments. Keep ridgetop viewpoint areas open to preserve views out for recreational users. Develop the track network as opportunities arise to improve track connections along the ridge. Neighbouring private properties have vehicle access s traversed	
Classification S.14(1) & S.19(1)(b)	Currently: unclassified. Proposed classification: Scenic Reserve (b) to	

	1. Protect and enhance the ecological, catchment and landscape values; and 2. Provide for compatible public outdoor recreation and enjoyment.
Notes	Aligns with catchment management approach in the Te Riu o Porirua management unit of the <i>Porirua Harbour Accord</i>. 268 Ohariu Valley Road was acquired in 2023 to fill a gap in the Outer Green Belt, enabling further extension of the Skyline Track.

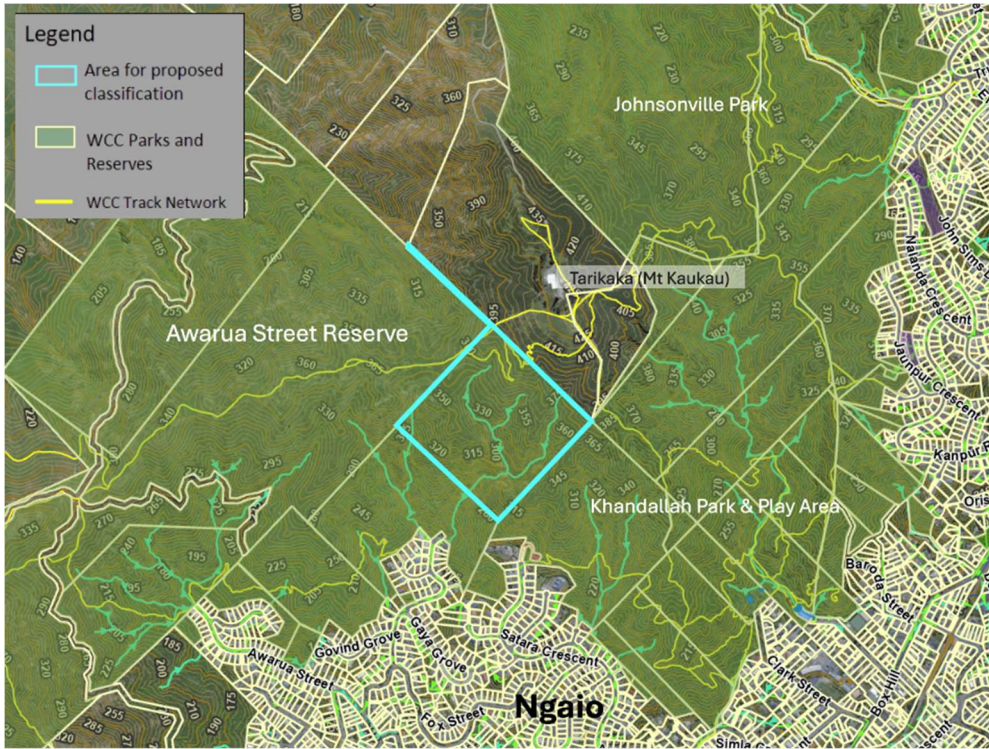
5. 185 Ohariu Valley Road, Ohariu / Johnsonville

See *Outer Green Belt Management Plan 2019* Management Sector 3; no map reference as land acquired after 2019.

Location	On Totara Ridge west of Johnsonville between Old Coach Road and Ohariu Valley Road.	
		
Legal description	Lot 1 DP 71275 (Parcel: 3804048)	Area: 10.1180 ha
Description	This site slopes down to the west from the adjacent Old Coach Road Reserve on the ridgetop to Ohariu Valley Road. It is predominantly pasture apart from scattered secondary vegetation and drains into the Ohariu Stream catchment. Traversed by Transpower high voltage transmission lines and includes a 4WD access track for pylon and transmission line maintenance. A new section of the Skyline Track has been developed across this site, connecting to a recently developed extension on Council-owned reserve land at 268 Ohariu Valley Road.	
Future intended management	Maintain the Skyline Track for continued public access. Maintain open areas or lower-growing vegetation under the transmission lines and continue with native forest restoration planting elsewhere on the site to improve biodiversity and help connect forest remnants and restoration planting sites along this part of the Outer Green Belt.	
Classification S. 14(1) & S.19(1)(b)	<i>Currently:</i> unclassified. Proposed classification: Scenic Reserve (b) to 1. Protect and enhance the ecological, catchment and landscape values; and 2. Provide for compatible public outdoor recreation and enjoyment.	
Notes	Acquired in 2023 to bridge a gap in the Outer Green Belt and to be classified scenic reserve.	

6. Awarua Street Reserve (northeast addition), Ngaio

See *Outer Green Belt Management Plan 2019* Management Sector 4; no map reference as land acquired after 2019.

Location	19 Vasanta Avenue, on the slopes above Vasanta Avenue and Satara Crescent in Ngaio.	
		
Legal description	Lot 1 DP 74330 (<i>Parcel: 8442541</i>)	Area: 17.1860 ha
Description	Acquired for the Outer Green Belt. Steep former grazing land with regenerating vegetation and craggy bluffs, on the upper flanks of Tarikākā (Mt Kaukau), a site of significance to Māori⁷. Includes three separate tributary streams in the headwaters of Korimako Stream, a tributary of Kaiwharawhara Stream, which is culturally significant to mana whenua⁸. The whole site is within a Significant Natural Area⁹, which includes some primary forest remnants, diverse secondary growth and various rare and/or threatened plant and animal species. The spread of Darwin's barberry on the tops along this ridge is a concern. The site is also within the Mount Kaukau Special Amenity Landscape¹⁰, reflecting multiple natural and landscape values. The Skyline Track traverses the site at the top but otherwise no development.	
Future intended management	Continue to protect and restore the high natural and landscape values, including weed and pest animal control. Maintain Skyline Track across the ridgetop part of the site.	
Classification S.14(1) &	<i>Currently:</i> unclassified. Proposed classification: Scenic Reserve (b) to:	

⁷ Category A, sub-category Wāhi Tupuna, site of significance to Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, (Ref 125) Wellington City 2024 District Plan

⁸ Mana Whenua Statutory Acknowledgement to Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust - Kaiwharawhara Stream.

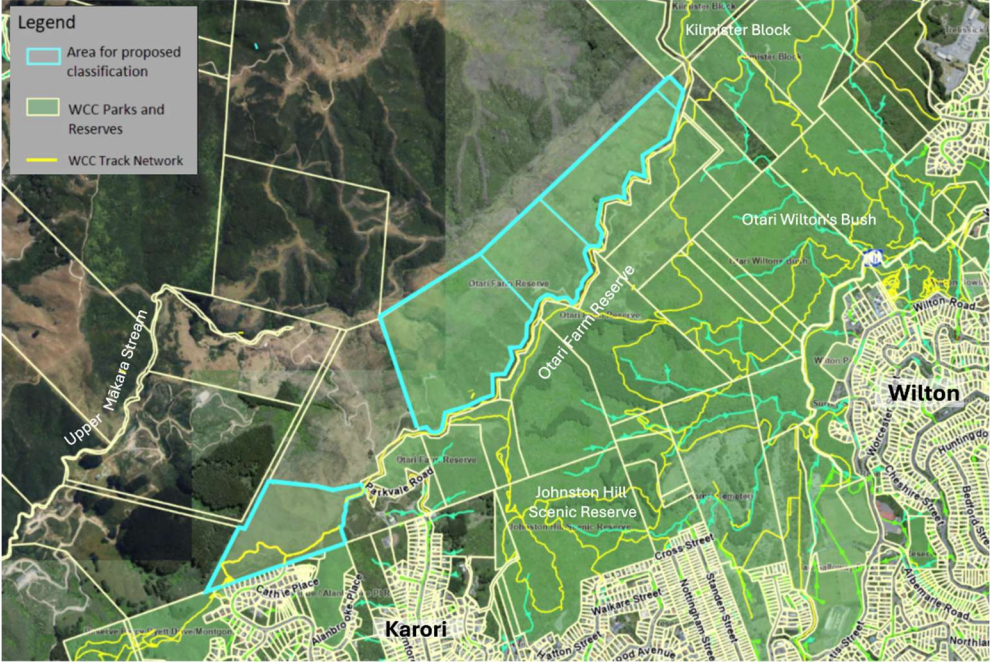
⁹ See Significant Natural Area WC068, Kaukau Johnsonville Park Khandallah Park, Wellington City 2024 District Plan.

¹⁰ See Special Amenity Landscape Schedule 11, Wellington City 2024 District Plan.

S.19(1)(b)	1. Protect and enhance the ecological, catchment and landscape values; and 2. Provide for compatible public outdoor recreation and enjoyment.
Notes	As this site was retired from grazing comparatively recently, Scenic Reserve (b) classification is considered most appropriate, despite the significant natural values already present. This is consistent with the Scenic Reserve (b) classification of the rest of the Awarua Street Reserves. Aligns with the <i>Kia Mouriora Te Kaiwharawhara</i> whole-of-catchment restoration of Te Kaiwharawhara.

7. Otari Farms Reserve (addition to), Karori

See *Outer Green Belt Management Plan 2019* Management Sector 4; no map reference as land acquired after 2019.

Location	On the west (rural) side of Te Wharangi Ridge, northwest of Karori, off Parkvale Road and Montgomery Avenue 	
Legal description	Part Otari A6 Block, Part Native Reserve Otari, Part Section 56 Karori DIST, Part Sec 57 Karori DIST, Lot 1 DP 607643 (Parcels: 3815040, 3975769, 3907952, 3810947, 8717977)	Area: 56.9837 ha
Description	The northern block occupies steep slopes below an unformed legal road used for the Skyline Track, on Te Wharangi Ridge west of Johnston Hill and Ōtari-Wilton's Bush. The southern block is also mainly on the west side of the ridge but includes the ridgetop above Montgomery Avenue where the Skyline Track is routed. This land occupies part of the Upper Mākara Stream catchment. Both blocks are mainly covered in a mix of pasture and regenerating exotic and native scrub, except for two small Significant Natural Areas¹¹ and some areas of community group and Council restoration planting. The land has been retired from grazing. Adjoins a Māori-owned land block in the north. A short distance further north, the ridge is crossed by Ōwhariu Ara, a main access route historically used by Māori¹². Includes the site of the Kilminster family's former farmhouse, with old shelter trees and other vestiges.	
Future intended management	Restore native forest to better connect the significant native forest in Ōtari-Wilton's Bush and Johnston Hill across the ridge into the upper Mākara Stream catchment, and to help protect the stream catchment. Develop tracks only to the extent required for planting / forest restoration access from the Skyline Track.	
Classification S. 14(1) & S.19(1)(b)	Currently: unclassified. Proposed classification: Scenic Reserve (b) to:	

¹¹ See Significant Natural Area WC056 Otari Farm 1, Wellington City 2024 District Plan.

¹² Category: A, Sub-category Wāhi Tupuna Mana Whenua: Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, DP Ref 11, Wellington City 2024 District Plan

	1. Protect and enhance the ecological, catchment and landscape values; and 2. Provide for compatible public outdoor recreation and enjoyment
Notes	This land was acquired in two stages, in 2023 and 2025, to add to the Outer Green Belt and classify scenic reserve.

D.Appendix: About Non-Scenic Reserve Classifications

The three types of reserve used for Wellington City Council reserves, other than scenic are: recreation, historic and local purpose. They are not considered appropriate for the reserves identified in this document but are summarised below for comparison.

About recreation reserves

Section 17 of the Reserves Act provides for recreation reserves and describes their purpose as:

“ . . . providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside.”

Management objectives (s.17)	Primary • Allow the public freedom of entry and access subject to such conditions as are necessary for the protection and well-being of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it. • Conserve those qualities which contribute to the pleasantness, harmony and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve. Secondary • Manage and protect scenic, historic, archaeological, biological, geological or other scientific features or indigenous flora or fauna or wildlife. • Maintain value as a soil, water and forest conservation area.
Guidance for selection	• Area may be totally modified e.g. suitable for sports fields • Area may be in a partly natural conditions e.g. suitable for picnic or camp sites or like development • Area may be lineal e.g. suitable for recreational walking and/or vehicle use.
Implications on development	The Council has a high level of decision-making authority. Policies in the reserve management plan provide for day-to-day management and development such as erecting appropriate buildings, removing or cutting back trees, constructing and maintaining tracks.
Implications on the natural environment	Recreational use and development must be compatible with natural reserve values and open space. Reserve management plan policies protect key values e.g. enhancing coastal ecosystems, restoring natural features.

About historic reserves

Section 18 of the Reserves Act provides for historic reserves and describes their purpose as:

“ . . . protecting and preserving in perpetuity such places, objects, and natural features, and such things thereon or therein contained as are of historic, archaeological, cultural, educational, and other special interest.”

Management objectives (s.18)	Primary • Manage structures, objects and sites to illustrate with integrity the history of New Zealand • Allow the public freedom of entry and access, subject to such
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	conditions and restrictions as are necessary for the protection and general wellbeing of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it - As appropriate, preserve the indigenous flora and fauna and natural environment as far as possible. Secondary (if applicable) - Manage and protect scenic, archaeological, geological, biological, or other scientific features, or indigenous flora and fauna, or wildlife - Maintain value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area.
Guidance for selection	- Area should be sufficiently large to preserve all the significant historic or archaeological features associated with the place, object or natural feature - Area should include sufficient additional land as a buffer against incompatible development or for unobtrusive sites for necessary services for management and public use - The primary value should be traditional, historic or archaeological through an association with major events, or Māori tradition - Area should have immediate interest to the visitor or be important as a key for continuing research and interpretation of New Zealand history.
Implications on development	When development is anticipated, the Council makes decisions through the reserve management plan. Examples include pedestrian and cycle access and tracks, necessary structures and facilities e.g. seating, signs and fences.
Implications on the natural environment	When activities related to the natural environment are anticipated, the Council makes decisions through the reserve management plan. Examples include restoration planting and weed / pest animal control and the impact of those activities on the historic values will be considered.

About local purpose reserves

Section 23 of the Reserves Act provides for local purpose reserves and describes their purpose as:

“... providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve”.

Management objectives (s.17)	Primary - Determined by the purpose - May prohibit access to the whole or any part of the reserve except by permit where appropriate. Secondary - Manage and protect scenic, historic, archaeological, biological or natural features - Maintain value as a soil, water, and forest conservation area.
Guidance for selection	Depends on purpose but generally very small, modified areas.
Implications on development	This class of reserve has the least restriction on activities, but compatibility will be determined by the stated purpose of the reserve.

Implications on the natural environment	The management and protection of natural values will be determined primarily by the reserve's stated purpose but is a secondary purpose where compatible with the primary purpose.
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