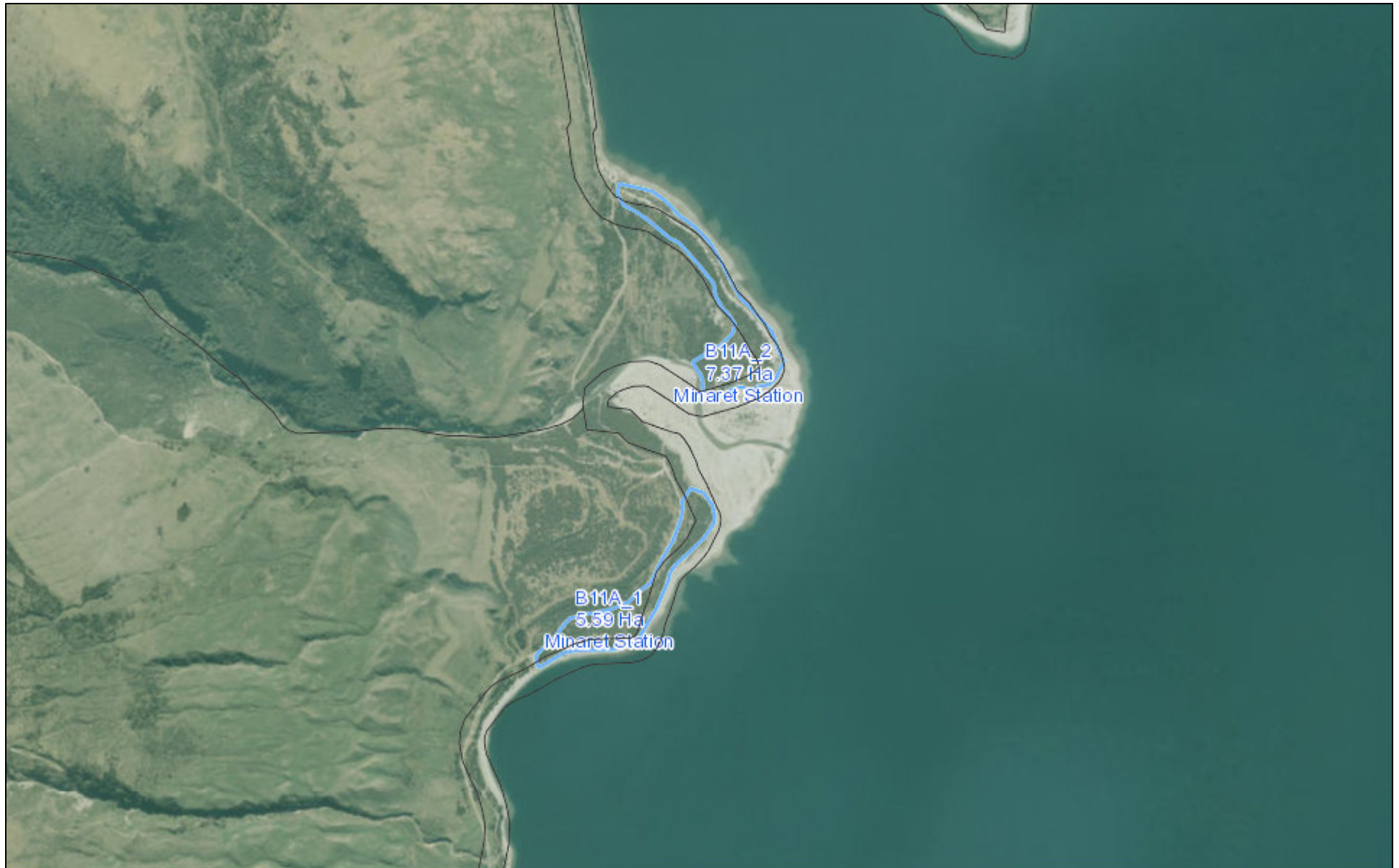




Significant Natural Area Assessment			
Project No: <i>11001-011</i>	Property Name: <i>Minaret Station</i> Site Name: <i>Estuary Burn SNA A</i>	Ecologist: <i>Glenn Davis</i> Date: <i>12 May 2011</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Glenn Davis and Ralph Henderson</i>		<u>Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area):</u> 1. E: 2201070 N: 5633605 2. E: 2200760 N: 5633035	
LENZ Units: <i>E3.2b and N2.1a</i> Ecological District: <i>Wanaka Ecological District</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>No photos.</i>	
Topography: <i>Lake shore and river terrace</i>	Slope: <i>>5°</i>	Altitude: <i>300 masl</i>	Aspect: <i>E</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Acutely threatened</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>12.96</i>	
Representativeness: Historically the vegetation on the Estuary Burn alluvial fan and lakeshore is likely to have comprised a beech-podocarp forest on the more stable areas, broadleaved indigenous hardwoods and manuka/kanuka woodland occupying areas that were exposed to more regular disturbance events (mainly floods). The kanuka woodland is considered to be representative of areas prone to regular disturbance events.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>None observed.</i>			
Provide onsite description of vegetation: Vegetation type: <i>Kanuka woodland with a minor component of matagouri and mingimingi.</i> Degree of Modification: <i>The area has experienced extensive disturbance. Jonathan Wallace indicated historical aerial photos show woodland was largely removed 40-50 years ago. The vegetation is moving toward a closed canopy woodland but is interspersed with open areas of pasture grass.</i>			
Provide onsite description of fauna habitat: <i>The closed canopy woodland is allowing the development of a litter layer which supports invertebrate lifecycles. The shrubland is expected to provide habitat for an abundant and diverse invertebrate fauna that supports insectivorous birds such as tomtit, fantail, grey warbler and a range of introduced bird species. The woodland is also expected to provide habitat for skinks and gecko.</i>			

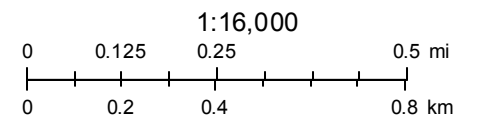
<p>Threats/Risks to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices):</p> <p>Key threats include grazing of regenerating shrubland and the risk of inadvertent events such as fire given the proximity to the lakeshore and use by public for boating etc.</p>
<p>Rarity:</p> <p>The threatened environment classification identifies the N2.1a environment to have 0.3% indigenous vegetation cover remaining with 0.1% protected, and the E3.2b environment consisting of 3.6% indigenous vegetation cover remaining and 0.8% protected.</p>
<p>Area Size and Shape (degree to which the area may be or is becoming self-sustaining):</p> <p>The kanuka woodland is of sufficient size to be self-sustaining and the vegetation community is expected to develop over time with halls totara, kowhai, pittosporum, broadleaf, wineberry and other broadleaved species expected to establish given populations of these species located in close proximity to the woodland.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?):</p> <p>Kanuka woodlands at this stage of development tend to have relatively low diversity. However, over time this woodland is expected to provide the conditions for the establishment of podocarps, and indigenous broadleaved species.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?):</p> <p>Kanuka woodland on Minaret Station and the neighbouring Albert Burn is at its western distributional limit.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?):</p> <p>The woodland is connected to other lakeshore kanuka stands in addition to indigenous broadleaved hardwood stands and beech forest in the Estuary Burn.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?):</p> <p>The kanuka woodland is of a sufficient size to be self-sustaining and has the potential to develop further with increasing diversity as the canopy opens up over time providing the conditions for podocarps, kowhai and other indigenous broadleaved species to successfully establish.</p>
<p>Recommendation (Accept/Decline):</p> <p>The woodland is a good example of vegetation that is representative of this acutely threatened environment. Given the rarity of indigenous vegetation cover within the N2.1a LENZ environment, we consider the area should be considered for designation as an area of Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Fauna Habitat.</p>

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Estuary Burn SNA A - B11A_1-2.



November 5, 2014

- Proposed Significant Natural Area
- Parcels
- Proposed Significant Natural Area



Please note the area shown is indicative and only for discussion purposes.