

- 8.2 The greywacke-derived steepland soils are mainly stony, shallow and strongly leached to podzolised with low natural fertility. The soils are heavy silt loam, clay loam and very stony clay loam on weathered greywacke.

## 9. VEGETATION

- 9.1 The covenant area lies in the Tararua Ecological District. According to the Tararua Ecological District report, there are extensive indigenous forest remnants in the district, with forest in the western foothills being dominated by rata and kamahi. Rimu, Hall's totara, miro and hard beech also occur.
- 9.2 Pre-European vegetation of the inland hills was probably dominated by black and hard beech with emergent rimu and rata. On valley floors a semi-swamp forest of pukatea, podocarps and beech would have been present. On the coastal slopes and most exposed ridges, a low coastal forest would have been dominated by ngaio, kohekohe, akiraho and karaka.
- 9.3 In the covenant area, the land is almost entirely clothed in bush or high scrub, and the vegetation is roughly divided into three areas which depend on moisture and aspect for their composition.
- a) A high scrub region has previously been cleared and has reverted through a manuka stage to the present kamahi/manuka/broadleaf spp. with Dracophyllum longifolium a feature. This region is very exposed to the west and to the sea immediately above the town.
- b) Black beech (Nothofagus solandri) is dominant in prominent patches on the western faces (and northwestern) with the understorey comprising:

<u>Knightsia excelsa</u>	rewarewa
<u>Brachyglottis repanda</u>	rangiora
<u>Weinmannia racemosa</u>	kamahi
<u>Cyathodes juniperina</u>	prickly mingimingi
<u>Leucopogon fasciculatus</u>	mingimingi
<u>Olearia rani</u>	heketara
<u>Myrsine australis</u>	red matipo
<u>Olearia paniculata</u>	
<u>Rhopalostylis sapida</u>	nikau
<u>Hedycarya arborea</u>	pigeonwood
<u>Dacrydium cupressinum</u>	rimu
<u>Prumnopitys ferruginea</u>	miro
<u>Prumnopitys taxifolia</u>	matai
<u>Lycopodium</u>	
<u>Phymatosorus diversifolius</u>	hounds tongue fern

Other species present are:

<u>Pseudopanax arboreus</u>	five finger
<u>Cyathea dealbata</u>	silver fern
<u>Freycinetia baueriana banksii</u>	kieke
<u>Gahnia</u> spp.	sedge
<u>Macropiper excelsum</u>	kawakawa

The mistletoe, which has recently been protected from possums, is on a black beech in the southern end of this area. The forest generally is very open under the mature canopy but where light can penetrate it is quite dense.

- c) Black beech/hard beech mixture. Hard beech enters the forest canopy immediately below the ridge top to the southeast of the section. Besides further specimens of kawakawa, red matipo, Gahnia, silver fern, Asplenium flaccidum, black matipo, rangiora, Olearia paniculata, five finger and Asplenium bulbiferum, other species present include:

<u>Phormium tenax</u>	flax
<u>Alectryon excelsus</u>	titoki
<u>Corynocarpus laevigatus</u>	karaka
<u>Melicytus ramilforus</u>	mahoe
<u>Cyathodes fasciculata</u>	mingimingi
<u>Metrosideros robusta</u>	Northern rata
<u>Elaeocarpus dentatus</u>	hinau
<u>Mida salicifolia</u>	maire
<u>Pseudopanax crassifolius</u>	lancewood
<u>Cordyline australis</u>	cabbage tree
<u>Trichomanes reniforme</u>	kidney fern

- 9.3 Introduced plants present in the covenant area include gorse and pine wildings.

## 10. FAUNA

- 10.1 The covenant area forms part of a wide band of mature forest and is important as a wildlife corridor from larger areas such as the Rimutaka Ranges and Wainuiomata catchment. Birds found in the bush include common natives such as tui, bellbird, kereru (NZ pigeon), fantail and grey warbler, while uncommon and regionally rare birds such as kaka, whitehead, NZ falcon and long-tailed cuckoo have been recorded in the area.
- 10.2 (Information required on insects and lizards)
- 10.3 Introduced animals including possums, ferrets, red deer, wild pig, rats and feral cats are a problem in the covenant area. Domestic cats and dogs can also have an impact on birdlife.

EASTBOURNE

Includes species  
list

## GIBBS COVENANT

## MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Queen Elizabeth II National Trust  
P O Box 3341  
WELLINGTON

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Approved by National Trust Board of Directors  
on 1994

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Chairman