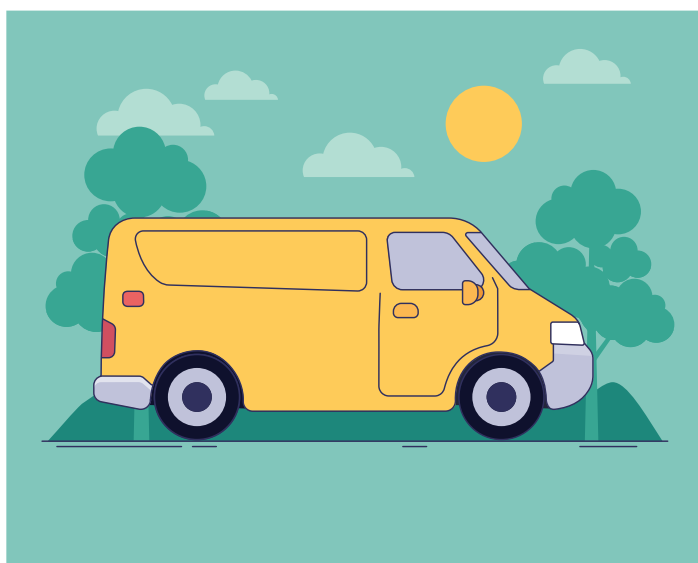
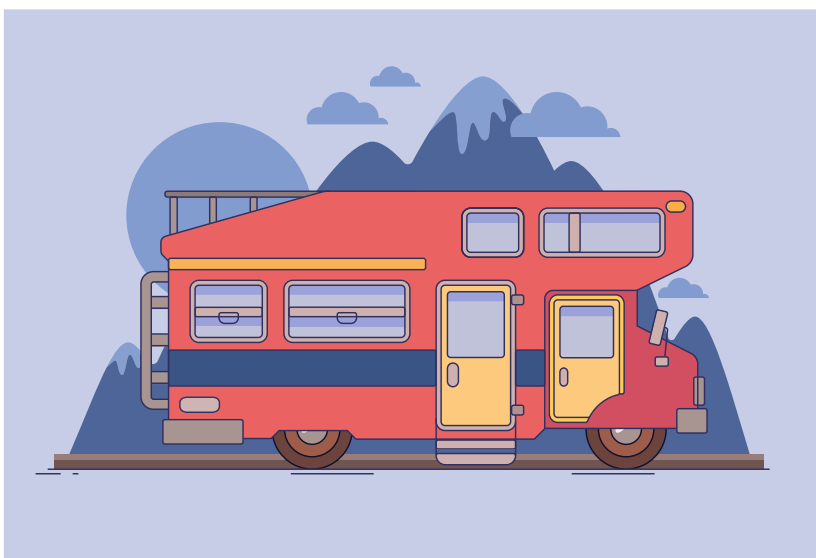


Freedom Camping Site Assessment 2024



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Introduction

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 (“the Act”) provides for and regulates the ability for freedom camping on land controlled or managed by Local Authorities (including in certain circumstances, land controlled or managed by the New Zealand Transport Agency), the Department of Conservation, and land managed or controlled by LINZ on behalf of the Crown¹. Freedom camping is popular with international tourists in tourist ‘hotspots’, however has also provided opportunities for many New Zealanders to enjoy the freedom of camping in parks and open spaces.

The Manawātū District has generally had few issues with freedom camping. Early engagement feedback on freedom camping in January to March 2024 was generally supportive of freedom camping, with 93% of respondents (243 of 263 respondents) agreeing that freedom camping is a great way to vacation in New Zealand.

However, if not appropriately managed, there is potential for freedom camping to impact on public enjoyment of local authority areas, and on the environment. Perceived problems with freedom camping include:

- Nuisance or amenity effects, including noise and visual pollution.
- Dislike of seeing freedom campers in areas that residents or other visitors see as being pristine.
- Potential friction between residents and campers.
- Potential health risks from human waste left behind by freedom campers
- Littering of public areas by freedom campers
- The need to protect the environment, including rivers
- A shortage of housing leading to homelessness, with more people

sleeping in their vehicles in public places.

- People overstaying their welcome or taking advantage of freedom camping areas rather than paid campgrounds or other visitor accommodation.
- Antisocial behaviour.

The findings and options assessment will evaluate which of these perceived problems are able to be managed by a Bylaw under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, and which perceived problems are better addressed in other ways.

The previous (2020) review of Council’s Freedom Camping Bylaw also raised concerns about freedom campers using public conveniences to dispose of grey and black waste rather than approved waste dump stations. In particular this is a concern for sites operating on septic tanks, with the chemical toilets killing septic tank bacteria, preventing the effective operation of the tanks. There are currently five Council-owned dump stations within the district available for caravan waste located at:

- the Campbell Street entrance of Timona Park (Feilding);
- in the Wear Street carpark at the Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre (Rongotea);
- the Rangiwhia Domain (Rangiwhia);
- Fagan Street (Sanson); and
- Turners Road (Feilding).

Timona Park and some of the rural reserves including Almadale Reserve are the only local authority areas (“sites”) where the impact of freedom camping has been significantly noted. While limited in issues currently, it is possible that are the northern rural sector of the District may be affected in the longer term with an increase of freedom camping and campers in areas such as Āpiti and

¹ Refer to section 3(2) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 -Freedom Camping Act 2011 No 61 (as at 13 July 2023), Public Act 3 Outline of Act – New Zealand Legislation

Rangiwahia. Long term this may require increased levels of service to cater for demand.

Since the commencement of the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023, a person may only freedom camp in a non-self-contained motor vehicle if permitted in accordance with a bylaw. The purpose of the site assessment is to evaluate sites throughout the district, based on the criteria prescribed in the Act, to inform where the Freedom Camping Bylaw should restrict or prohibit freedom camping. Restrictions may include:

- freedom camping in a self-contained vehicle only;
- Restrictions around where you may freedom camp within the boundaries of a site;
- Limits around the maximum length of stay, or the time of the year;
- Limits on the number of vehicles that may freedom camp on any given night.

The site assessment will also inform where Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw should provide for freedom camping, including in a non-self-contained motor vehicle.

Assessment Criteria

Under the Act, the Council must be satisfied that the Bylaw is necessary for the following purposes:

- To protect the area;
- To protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area; and
- To protect access to the area.

These criteria are used to assess each site in a holistic and consistent way, in line with the requirements of the Act.

a) Protection of the Area

The types of sites within the Bylaw have a wide range of environments, such as road reserves and rest areas, recreation reserves, urban parks and playgrounds, to bush, coastal and farmland sites in rural areas. The protection of the natural environment, such as the flora and fauna, will be assessed when reviewing the sites.

b) Health and safety of those visiting the site

The Act requires that the health and safety of those visiting the site are considered. The profile of the Manawātū District consists of remote areas, uneven ground and cliffs which are prone to erosion. Some freedom camping sites have a high level of vehicular traffic (car parks and lookout points), or have a high level of use for other activities (like sports grounds). This assessment includes taking into account the effects of freedom camping, including faecal contamination of sites and the health hazard this creates for those visiting the site. These aspects of health and safety have been considered during the review of each site.

c) Access to the Area

Within this document the current access to each site is assessed. This includes taking into account the current vehicular access, to ensure that no unreasonable damage is caused by the access of vehicles (such as driving over culverts if there is no vehicle access) or the impact that people accessing the site will have on the area (pedestrians).

Assessment Scoring Method

The scoring method is based on the three assessment criteria set out in the Act (see previous page). Each area (protection of area, health and safety and access) has been allocated scores from 1 (being the lowest) to 5 (being the highest). The total score of each of the criteria provide the total significance score.

If the significance score is **9 or above**, this means that the site is determined to be a “significant site” and freedom camping is prohibited. If the significance score is **8 or below**, freedom camping is permitted at the site; however there could be some restrictions placed on the conditions specific to the type of camping at the site.

Protection of the area - Cultural significance, Historical significance, Flora and Fauna

1	No significant site concerns
2	Low concerns regarding significant sites
3	Some concerns regarding significant sites
4	Significant site but not fully protected
5	Fully protected area, historical, cultural or native significance

Protect the health and safety of those visiting the area

1	No health and safety concerns
2	Low health and safety concerns
3	Minimal health and safety concerns (risk for elderly or children)
4	Significant health and safety concerns
5	Risk to health and safety is too great to allow access to the site

Protect access to the area

1	Fully formed access to the site
2	Good access to the site which would not cause damage
3	Moderate access to the site and any vehicle access would cause minimal damage
4	Restricted access to the site and any vehicle access would cause damage
5	No access to the site and any vehicle access would cause significant damage

Some local authority areas include areas where different levels of restriction apply to freedom camping. That is, they include areas that fit within different bylaw schedules. The maps for these local authority areas are included in the most permissive schedule. For example, a map that identifies areas where only self-contained freedom camping is allowed (i.e. schedule 2 areas) and other areas where non-self-contained freedom camping is allowed (i.e. schedule 3 areas) will be included in schedule 3 of this document.

Scores for the cultural significance of each site were determined by Council's Kaitohu Aporei - Māori (Principal Advisor - Māori) following hui with local iwi as part of the 2020 Freedom Camping Bylaw Review. Council's current Kaitohu Aporei - Māori (Principal Advisor - Māori) has reviewed this assessment and has confirmed that there is no new information that would alter this previous assessment.

In general, Māori are primarily concerned about the potential for human waste and litter to enter waterways, the presence of particular flora, fauna and taonga, and proximity to sites of significance. Those sites that border a waterway and do not have any toilet facilities, and sites that contain native flora and fauna or other taonga were given a higher significance score. No sites of significance to Māori were identified in these initial discussions between Council's Kaitohu Aporei - Māori (Principal Advisor - Māori). However, there is potential for some sites, particularly coastal sites, to contain sites of significance that we do not know about. The identification of any sites of significance would trigger a reassessment of the cultural significance score.

The historical significance and environmental significance (flora and fauna) of a site was determined in conjunction with Council's Parks and Property Team and the information contained in Council's Reserve Management Plans for these sites.

Scores for health and safety were determined by Council's Parks and Property Team and then checked by staff from the Compliance, Community and Strategy and Regulatory Teams. In general, sites that have a known flood risk, are particularly isolated or have no access to clean drinking water were assigned a higher health and safety score.

Scores for access were assigned by Council's Parks and Property Team and then checked by staff from the Compliance, Community and Strategy and Regulatory Teams. In general, those sites that have no vehicle access or parking areas, grassed areas that have poor drainage and therefore at risk of damage by vehicles, or require access from high speed zones were assigned a higher access score.

Significance Assessments for Parks and Reserves

Schedule 1

Freedom Camping Prohibited Areas



Feilding Cemetery



Figure 1 - Location and Perimeter of Feilding Cemetery

Halcombe Cemetery



Figure 2 - Location and Perimeter of Halcombe Cemetery

Kimbolton Cemetery



Figure 3 – Location and Perimeter of Kimbolton Cemetery

Pohangina Cemetery



Figure 4 – Location and Perimeter of Pohangina Cemetery

Rangiwahia Cemetery



Figure 5 – Location and Perimeter of Rangiwahia Cemetery

Rongotea Cemetery



Figure 6 – Location and Perimeter of Rongotea Cemetery

Sandon Cemetery



Figure 7 - Location and Perimeter of Sandon Cemetery

Waituna West Cemetery



Figure 8 - Location and Perimeter of Waituna West Cemetery

All cemeteries

There are eight Council-operated cemeteries in the Manawatū District. These cemeteries are located in Feilding, Halcombe, Kimbolton, Pohangina, Rangiwhia, Rongotea, Sandon and Waituna West.

These cemeteries are all located in rural locations and provide for burials and ash interments. The Feilding Cemetery also has a memorial garden and RSA section. The earliest recorded burial in the Feilding Cemetery was in November 1886, although the cemetery is known to be older than that. Burials in Council's rural cemeteries also date back to as early as the 1880's or early 1900s.

Facilities

Cemeteries generally have sealed entranceways, vehicle accessways and carpark.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

Cemeteries are areas of high social, cultural and historical value. While most cemeteries have some vegetation, this vegetation is not known to have high biodiversity values.

Health and Safety

During funerals there may be large congregations of people gathering on or near vehicle accessways. There is potential for conflict between vehicles and visitors to the cemeteries.

Access

Funerals can take place at any time of the week and often require total use of provided carparking. Freedom camping within cemeteries could therefore impact on access for other visitors.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	2	4	11

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Cemeteries

It is recommended that all cemeteries be included within Schedule 1 as Freedom Camping Prohibited Areas. Freedom camping within cemeteries has the potential to adversely impact on the significant cultural and historical values that these sites have for communities, including Māori. Freedom camping also has the potential to impact on access to cemeteries for those visiting these sites.

Awahuri Forest– Kitchener Park



Figure 9 - Location and Perimeter of Awahuri Forest - Kitchener Park

Awahuri Forest– Kitchener Park

Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park was once part of the Kawakawa Block and protects a remnant of the larger semi-swamp podocarp forest. Ngāti Kauwhata settled in this area after migrating from Maungatautari in the early 1800s with many settling along the Ōroua River. The iwi has had connections with the river for 200 years and has three marae in the immediate area. Land losses when the native title was extinguished and replaced by individual ownership included lands where the reserve is located. Another iwi with connections to the area is Ngāti Apa (North Island), Rangitāne O Manawatū and Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

The reserve is made up of four areas that were acquired by the Council at different periods. The former Feilding Borough Council purchased the original reserve area from the Riddiford family in 1914 to preserve Awahuri Forest. The Crown purchased the adjacent land for scenic purposes in 1914. In 1916 the reserve was named Kitchener Park after Lord Kitchener.

In 1980, the reserve was classified a Scenic A Reserve. Feilding Borough Council was appointed to manage and control the reserve in 1986. The Council took over responsibility for the reserve in 1989 and since then the area west of the Makino Stream and other small pieces of land have been added to the reserve.

Facilities

There are public toilets at this park. However, these facilities are only available during the day as the gates to the park are closed at night.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The reserve was classified in 1980 as a Scenic A Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. Section 19(1)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977 sets out the main purpose of Scenic A Reserves, which is to protect and preserve:

...in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment, and use of the public, suitable areas possessing such qualities as scenic interest, beauty, or natural features or landscape that their protection and preservation are desirable in the public interest."

Council appointed the Awahuri Forest-Kitchener Park Trust (a Council-Controlled Organisation) in 2014. The role of the trust is to oversee continued ecological restoration and development of the reserve in accordance with its Scenic A classification.

The info kiosk at Awahuri Forest – Kitchener Park is seen as a taonga for iwi. This increases the cultural significance of this site to Māori.

Awahuri Forest - Kitchener Park is an area of environmental significance with a high biodiversity value.

Health and Safety

The gates are closed at dusk and open at dawn to enhance security. Overnight stays would also pose safety risks to users. This area has a history of flooding.

Access

Access to the site is via an entranceway from Kawakawa Road. There is an off-road parking area. The gates at the entranceway are locked at night.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	1	5	11

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Awahuri Forest – Kitchener Park

That freedom camping is prohibited at this site. It is not suitable for freedom camping given that it is locked at night, has a high flood risk and because it is very significant for both environmental and cultural reasons.

Provision for freedom camping would be inconsistent with the vision and objectives for the reserve as contained in the Awahuri Forest - Kitchener Park Reserve Management Plan (August 2019).

Cheltenham Memorial Reserve



Figure 10 - Location and Perimeter of Cheltenham Memorial Reserve

Cheltenham Memorial Reserve

Facilities

Public toilet block and playground.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

This site is classified as a recreation reserve and contains the Cheltenham War Memorial. It is a prominent gathering place for the Cheltenham community.

Health and Safety

No particular concerns.

Access

There is no direct vehicle access to the site or any parking area. Pedestrian access to the site is via a gravel area on the State Highway 54 road reserve. This gravel area is not owned by Council as it is part of the State Highway.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	5	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Memorial Reserve

That freedom camping is prohibited at this site. This site is unsuitable for freedom camping as the only parking area is within the State Highway Road reserve. The Chief Executive of the New Zealand Transport Agency has not provided their written consent for this land to be declared a local authority area for the purpose of inclusion in the freedom camping bylaw.

Douglas Square, Rongotea



Figure 11 - Location and Perimeter of Douglas Square, Rongotea

Douglas Square, Rongotea

Douglas Square is a civic square in the centre of Rongotea. It establishes the identity and character of the township and has a number of features of interest to the community and visitors - the Rongotea War Memorial (listed in the District Plan with a C category heritage), the matai stump marking the first church service in the town, the town clock, a range of specimen trees, amenity planting and seats commemorating specific events.

Facilities

- Sheltered seating area
- War Memorial
- Rubbish bins
- Park benches

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

This site is highly significant as a meeting place for the Rongotea Community. It also has high value as a site of historical significance.

Health and Safety

Nothing of significance.

Access

There is no off-road parking area. The square comprises of four quadrants around a central roundabout.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	1	5	10

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Douglas Square, Rongotea

That freedom camping is prohibited at this site. Given the need to protect the cultural and historical values of the square as a civic space and community meeting place, this site is not considered suitable for freedom camping.

Ellison Reserve, Tangimoana Beach



Figure 12 - Location and Perimeter of Ellison Reserve, Tangimoana Beach

Ellison Reserve, Tangimoana Beach

Ellison Reserve is a recreation reserve at Tangimoana consisting of the Tangimoana playground, hard court and BMX/pump track, the 'domain' which is a picnic area with public toilets, and a wetland and paths meandering through mixed native and non-native planting. According to Council's Coastal Reserves Management Plan (October 2019), it is council's intention to retain the domain as an undeveloped green open space for casual recreation with the option of future development should the need arise.

The Coastal Reserves Management Plan (October 2019) currently does not provide for freedom camping at Tangimoana Beach. See Ellison Reserve Carpark (page 96-97) for more information on freedom camping availability.

Facilities

There is a new public toilet and carpark at the intersection of Ripa Street, Kuku Street and Recreation Street.

There are no water facilities at this site.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The native coastal vegetation at this site has high biodiversity value.

Health and Safety

The whole of Tangimoana is at risk of flooding. The nearest public toilets are situated over 75m from most areas where parking within the Reserve is feasible.

Access

There is no vehicle access to the reserve and no parking area.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	2	5	11

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Ellison Reserve

Freedom camping is not recommended at this site due to the presence of native coastal vegetation and high biodiversity, which are vulnerable to damage from large vehicles and camping activities. For an alternative nearby location, see Ellison Reserve Carpark (page 96-97), where freedom camping is permitted.

Feilding Central Business District Shopping Area



Figure 13 - Location and Perimeter of Feilding Central Business Shopping Area

Feilding Central Business District Shopping Area (including Manchester Square)

The Feilding Central Business District (CBD) is the primary commercial hub of the District and regularly hosts a variety of community events. Some streets within the CBD are narrow and not suitable for large vehicles. Allowing freedom camping on road reserves in this area could further strain existing parking capacity.

While parking in the Feilding CBD is free, it is actively monitored. Infringement notices are issued between 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday to Friday, with parking time limits ranging from 30 minutes to all-day parking, depending on location.

Facilities

- Paved area for the farmers market and other events
- Clock tower
- Park benches
- Public toilets
- Bus stop
- Information boards
- Memorials
- Rubbish bins

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

This site is highly significant as a meeting place for the Feilding Community. This area is historically and culturally important.

Health and Safety

The presence of large vehicles may compromise road safety by obstructing sight lines and reducing visibility, leading to increased risk for both pedestrians and campers.

Access

Vehicle manoeuvrability is limited due to the narrow streets within the area. Roadside parking is intended to serve customers, visitors, and local businesses, with some streets subject to time-restricted parking.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	2	3	10

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Feilding Central Business District Shopping Area

That freedom camping is prohibited in this area. Given the high historical and cultural values and the potential for freedom camping to impact on access and parking capacity, this area is not suitable for freedom camping.

Fraser Drive



Figure 14 - Location and Perimeter of Fraser Drive Reserve

Fraser Drive

Facilities

No facilities currently.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

This is an urban area of open space for the community to enjoy and connect with nature.

Health and Safety

No particular concerns.

Access

There is no vehicle access to this park and no parking area.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	5	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Fraser Drive

That freedom camping is prohibited at this site. This site is unsuitable for freedom camping as it has no access, facilities or parking provision.

Herlihy Reserve



Figure 15 - Location and Perimeter of Herlihy Reserve

Herlihy Reserve

This reserve is on the outskirts of Feilding on the banks of the Kiwitea Stream. It was subdivided in 1972 and lies between the stream and Kimbolton Road. Its role as a reserve is to allow stream access for recreation and for views of the stream from the road. Council is currently partnering with a volunteer group on a restoration project at the reserve. The aim of the restoration is “to make Herlihy Reserve a fully accessible, family friendly park for all to enjoy.”

Facilities

There are currently no facilities such as picnic tables, toilets, seating or rubbish bins at the reserve, although the current restoration works at the reserve may increase visitor numbers and demand for such investment. There is a large gravel carpark.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

Proximity to the Kiwitea Stream poses some concern around potential dumping of human waste and litter. However, the active bed is reasonably far from vegetative cover, which reduces the risk of waste entering surface water. There are no known significant flora and fauna at this site.

Herlihy Reserve is not identified as hosting any significant flora or fauna but is in close proximity to the Kiwitea Stream and aquatic ecosystem.

Having no rubbish bins or other facilities promotes significant risk to the environment through fly tipping etc.

Health and Safety



Tree work has been undertaken along road boundary to increase visibility of the reserve from the road. This makes overnight stay more safe as campers could be seen from the road.

Currently users can park underneath tall mature trees. There is a risk of tree fall during high winds, as evidenced by Figure 16 below. If freedom camping is to be provided for in the carpark, Council would need to manage this risk by regularly assessing the health of trees.

Figure 16: Tree branch that fell in the carpark on 23 January 2024

Horizons holds modelled flood information for Herlihy Reserve in a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event. This information is shown in Figure 17 below:

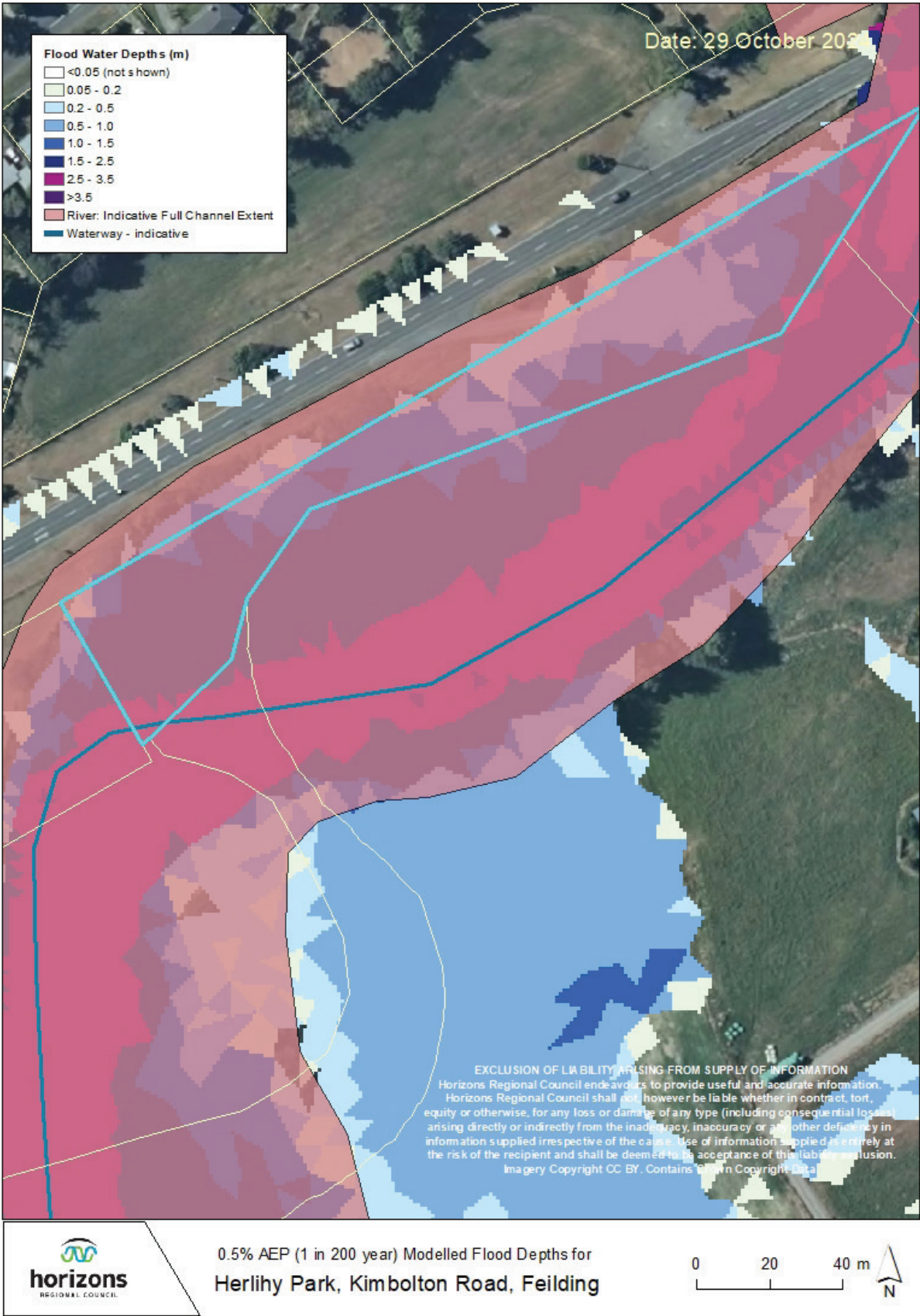


Figure 17 - Modelled flood information from Horizons for Herlihy Reserve

Herlihy Reserve cont...

This modelled flood information suggests that the site will be partially inundated in a 0.5% AEP flood. There are currently no water level monitoring sites on the Kiwitea Stream in the vicinity of Herlihy Reserve. Herlihy Reserve does not have any advanced warning system like the Vinegar Hill alarms. This poses significant risk to users staying overnight who would be parked within the inundated area.

The Kiwitea Stream at this location is part of a Horizons Flood Control and Drainage Scheme. Resource consent may be required from Horizons for certain activities within 10 metres of the bed of the stream. No new structures or activities are proposed at this site to support freedom camping.

Access

Vehicles access the stream and there are a number of tracks through the reserve to the stream. Vehicular access to the site is off State Highway 54 in a 100km/hr zone.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	5	3	10

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Herlihy Reserve

This site has a history of being used by self-contained vehicles for freedom camping. It’s designation was changed from restricted (self-contained vehicles only) to prohibited in the 2020 Freedom Camping bylaw review, primarily for health and safety reasons given the risk of inundation, lack of flood warning system, and risk of tree fall. Restoration works are currently underway at the park. While these restoration works may increase its attractiveness as a freedom camping site, the health and safety risks remain.

For these reasons, we recommend that Herlihy Reserve remain as a prohibited site for Freedom Camping.

Himatangi Beach

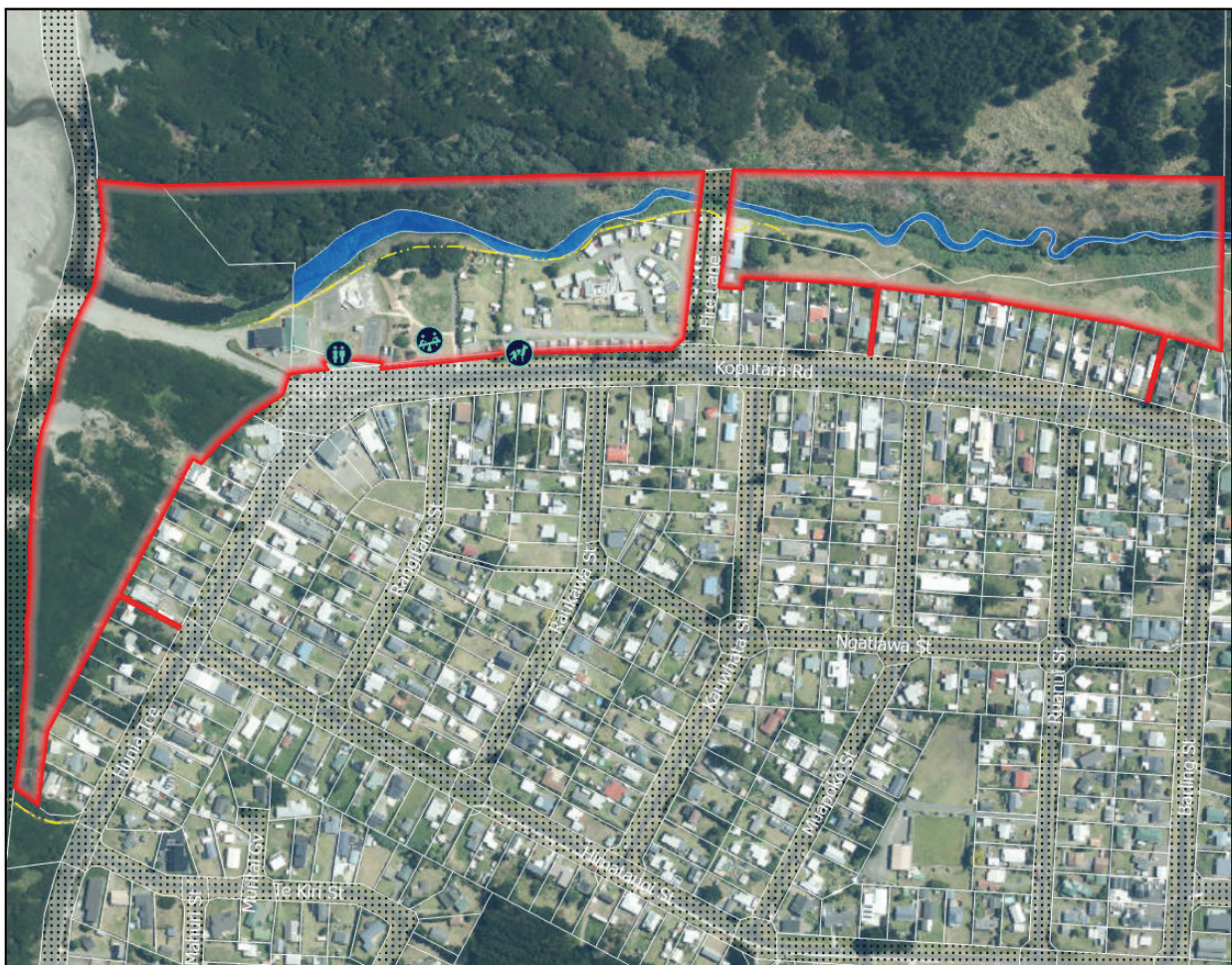
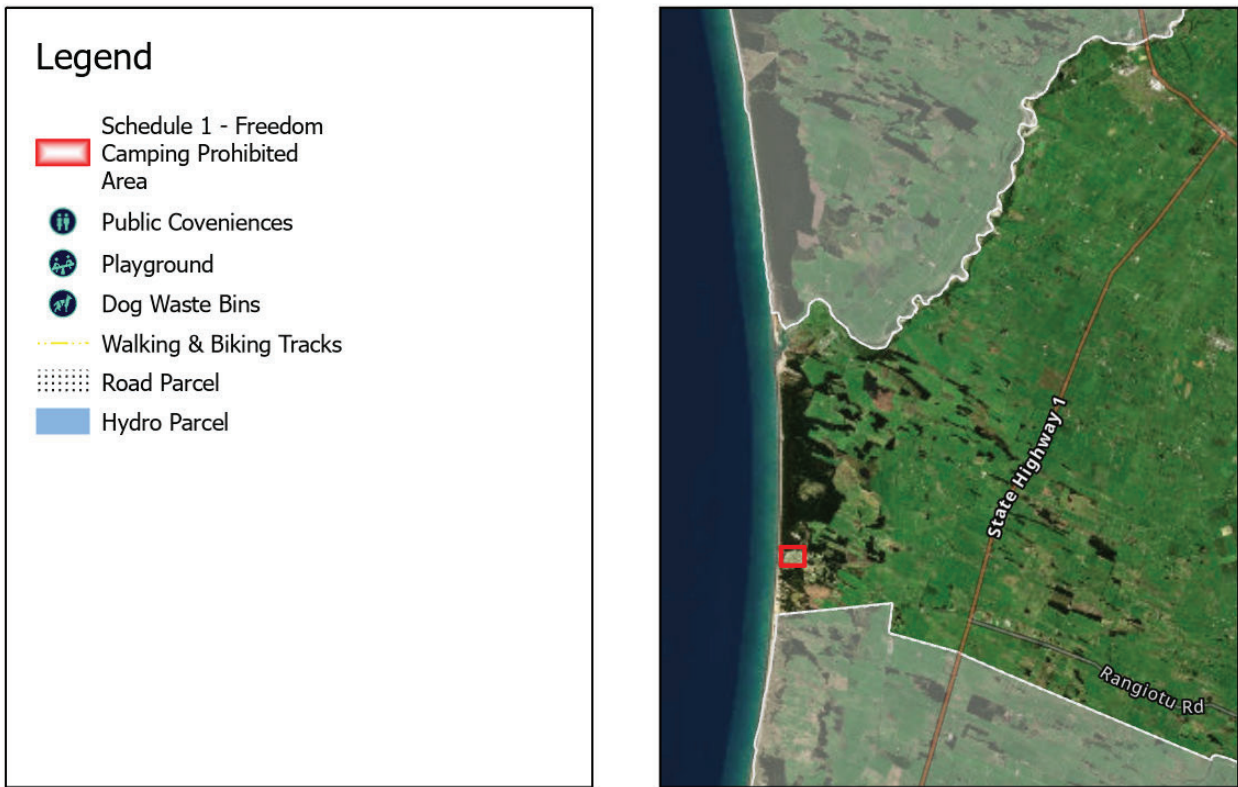


Figure 18 - Location and Perimeter of Himatangi Beach

Himatangi Beach

This reserve area is managed in accordance with Council's Coastal Reserves Management Plan (October 2019).

Facilities

There are public toilets and rubbish bins within the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve. Other facilities within the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve include the Himatangi Beach camping ground, a play area, picnicking, skateboarding, basketball, tennis courts and a recycling centre.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

There are no known sites of significance, however this is potential for such sites to be identified given that the coastal environment is highly significant to iwi.

Much of the area is part of a restoration and development programme. Vehicle and pedestrian access is controlled to avoid impact on natural features and sensitive habitats.

Health and Safety

Himatangi Beach is susceptible to flooding.

Access

Vehicle and pedestrian access is controlled to protect sensitive habitats. Vehicle parking areas are well utilised by visitors to the beach and there is potential for conflict if large vehicles park in these areas.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	2	4	10

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Himatangi Beach

That freedom camping is prohibited at Himatangi Beach. Freedom camping could adversely affect natural features and sensitive habitats. Freedom camping is not provided for within coastal reserves in Council's Coastal Reserves Management Plan (October 2019).

James Palmer Park



Figure 19 - Location and Perimeter of James Palmer Park

James Palmer Park

This recreation reserve is part of the Makino Stream walk and cycleway. The park is accessed from North Street and from the walkway along the stream from Sherwill Street West. James Palmer, an early resident of Feilding, gifted the land to the people of Feilding. The park is a dog exercise area. Some exotic trees have been removed and the stream bank planted to reduce erosion and improve stream ecology.

Facilities

No facilities currently.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The Mangakino (Makino) Stream flows through this site along the eastern boundary. This stream is of significance culturally and environmentally.

Health and Safety

No particular concerns.

Access

There is no vehicle access to this park and no parking area.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	5	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – James Palmer Park

That freedom camping is prohibited at this site. This site is unsuitable for freedom camping as it has no access, facilities or parking provision.

Kowhai Park

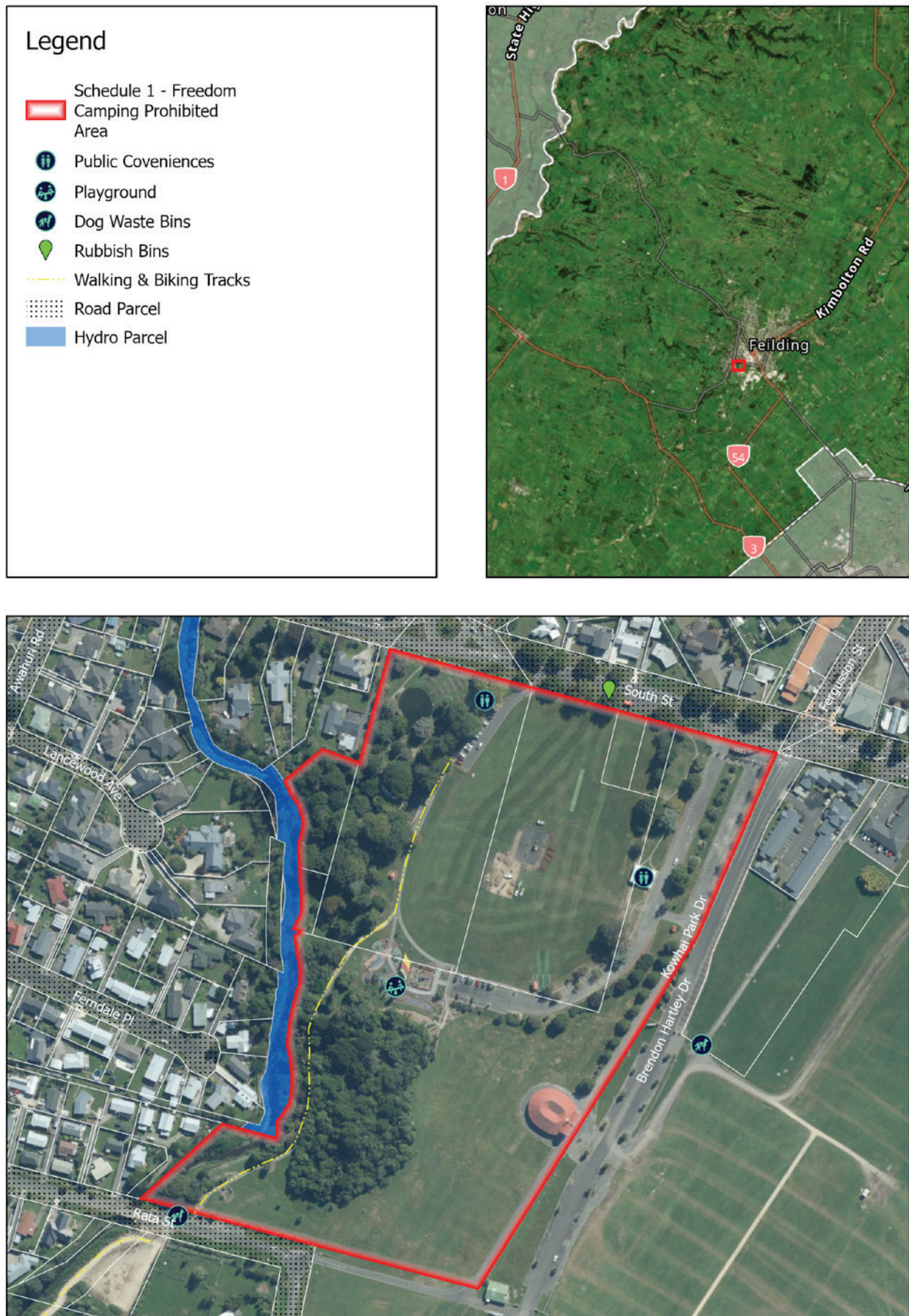


Figure 20 - Location and Perimeter of Kowhai Park

Kowhai Park

In 1908 the Feilding Cricket Club set about laying a cricket field. The cricket ground was neglected during WWI but in 1919 the Park Cricket Club applied to the borough council for use of the land - an application that saw the ground ploughed up, levelled and reseeded in 1922 thanks to a fundraising campaign.

Kowhai Park is also home to a heritage management area which include the historic former racecourse main entrance gates off South Street and the Old Tote building which was built in 1916 and included the first electricity-powered automatic totalizers to be installed in New Zealand.

Facilities

- Hardstand parking area
- Public toilets adjacent to the carpark at the northwestern entrance to the park off South Street and at the Cricket Pavillion. However, these toilets are locked at night
- Playgrounds
- Sports fields
- Tote Building

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The Mangakino (Makino) Stream passes through this site. However, the presence of public toilets reduces the risk of human waste entering surface water.

No known sites of significance to Māori.

The Mangakino (Makino) Stream is environmentally significant.

Kowhai Park has high historical values. While the gardens are predominantly introduced species, they still provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. Horizons has identified this property as potentially containing a biodiversity site (Figure 21). This means that consent may be required from Horizons for any clearance of indigenous vegetation within the park.



Health and Safety

The Kowhai Park playground is the District's largest and most popular playground. There are concerns around the safety of youth within carparking areas adjacent to the playground, which could be exacerbated by large vehicles, such as caravans, maneuvering in these tight spaces.

Overnight freedom camping may increase the risk of vandalism of facilities but could also increase passive surveillance.

Horizons holds modelled flood water information for a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event for this site (Figure 22). Modelled water depths outside of the Makino Stream vary from less than 0.05m to between 0.5m and 1.0m depth. Modelling suggests that flood water depths in the north-eastern carpark will be up to 0.2m in a 0.5% AEP flood event.

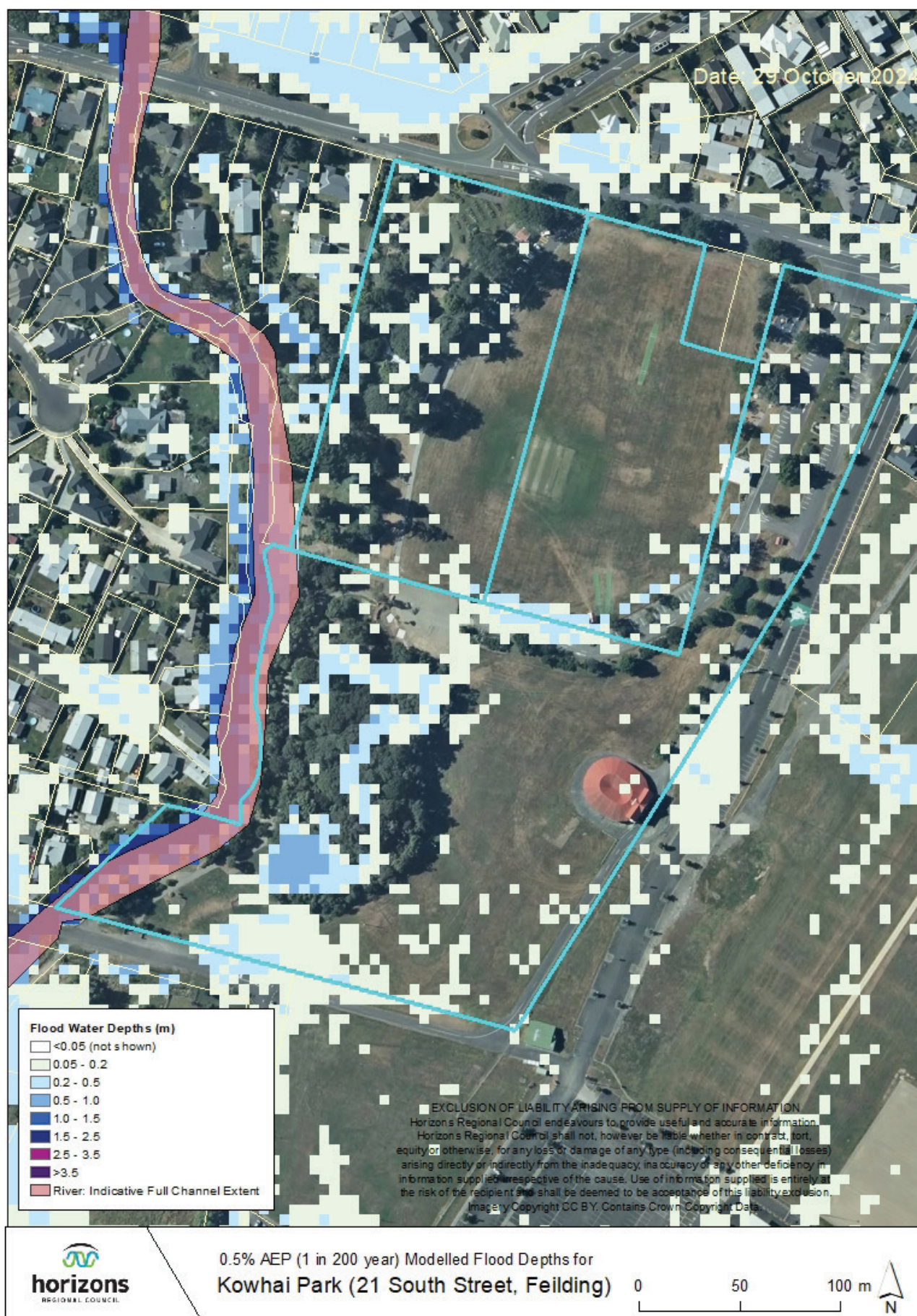


Figure 22 - Modelled flood water depths in a 0.5% AEP flood event at Kowhai Park

Kowhai Park Cont...

Access

There are currently three vehicle entranceways to this park from South Street and two separate carparking areas. The site can also be accessed from a parking area on Rata Street, at the southern end of the park. Entrances are locked at night for security reasons.

The north-eastern parking area serves playing fields at Kowhai Park. The parking area is sealed and is currently marked with car parking spaces.

There is potential for conflict between freedom campers and other users of the reserve, including visitors to the playground, cricket players and spectators. The park is also used for public events such as the family fund day.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	5	2	3	10

Recommendations – Kowhai Park

That freedom camping is prohibited at Kowhai Park. This recommendation is due to Kowhai Park’s historical and cultural significance, and potential conflict between freedom campers and other users of the park. If freedom camping was to be provided for at this park Council would have to make changes to the security arrangements, including keeping entrances and public toilets unlocked overnight. This would increase the risk of vandalism.



Village Road Reserves – Halcombe



Figure 23 - Village Road Reserves - Halcombe

Village Road Reserves – Halcombe

Halcombe is a quiet rural village characterised by its strong community atmosphere and surrounding farmland.

Facilities

No water supply or public toilet facilities are available at this location.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No significant concerns identified.

Health and Safety

Most roads within Halcombe Village are narrow, and even the wider main roads may be obstructed by parked camping vehicles, reducing access and visibility for other road users.

There are notable safety concerns for both pedestrians and drivers, especially along the main road, where vehicles travel at speeds of up to 70 km/h. Pedestrians must share narrow corridors and recreational spaces with camping vehicles, often with limited sight lines.

Access

Access is restricted due to unformed kerb and channel along most berms, as well as the presence of large open swale drains.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	4	4	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Halcombe Road Reserves

It is recommended that the road reserves in Halcombe Village be included in the list of prohibited sites for freedom camping. Large vehicles used for camping could impede access for residents, pedestrians, and emergency services, and pose road safety risks by obstructing visibility.

Village Road Reserves – Himatangi Beach

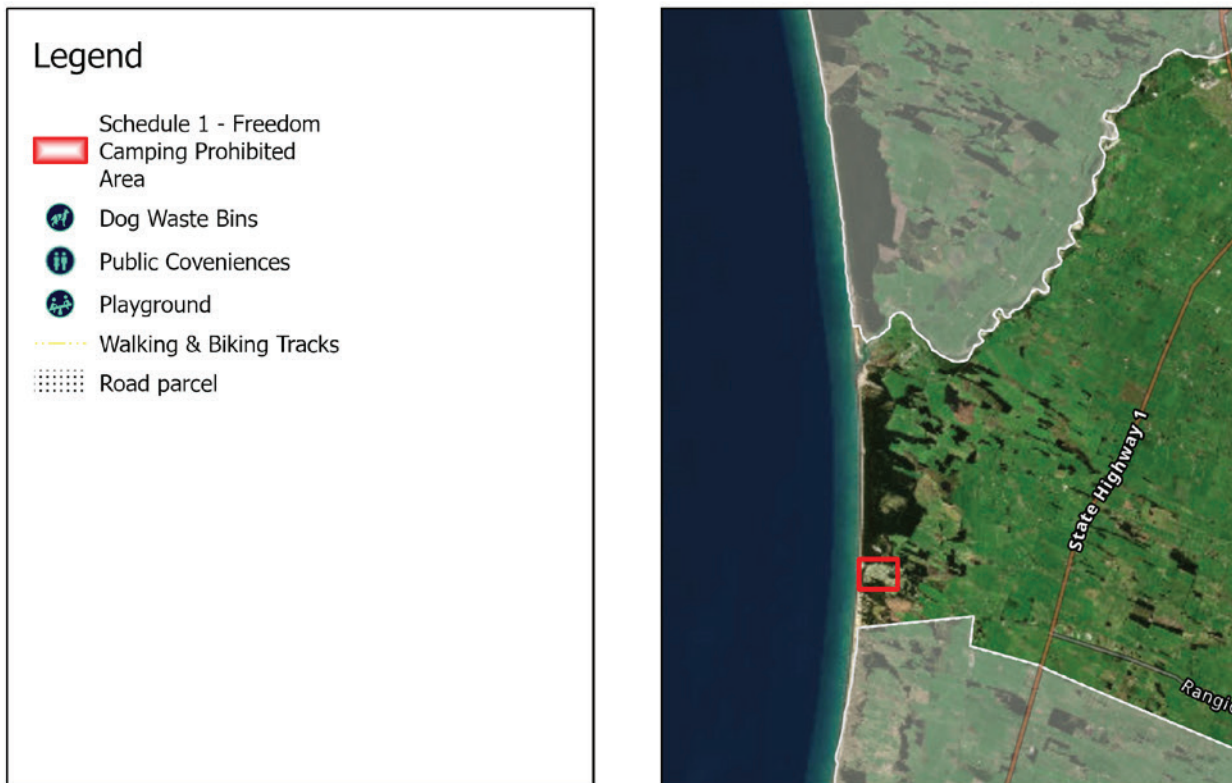


Figure 24 - Village Road Reserves - Himatangi Beach

Village Road Reserves – Himatangi Beach

Himatangi is a popular coastal settlement known for its beach access and holiday homes. It features a surf lifesaving club, playground, and local store.

Facilities

No water supply or public toilet facilities are available at this site.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The site holds cultural and historical value for the Himatangi community. Additionally, the coastal environment is particularly sensitive to damage from human activity and vehicle use.

Health and Safety

Most roads within Himatangi Beach Village are narrow. Even on wider roads, the presence of large camping vehicles can block access, reduce visibility, and create safety hazards for other drivers.

Pedestrians are at increased risk, as they must share narrow corridors and public spaces with parked vehicles, often with limited sight lines. These risks are heightened during the summer season, when the number of visitors and families in the area increases.

Access

Access is constrained by grass berms and the absence of kerbing. In addition, power poles positioned within berms present safety hazards and limit manoeuvrability.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	3	3	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Himatangi Beach Road Reserves

It is recommended that road reserves in Himatangi Beach Village be designated as prohibited sites for freedom camping. Large vehicles associated with freedom camping may restrict access for residents, pedestrians, and emergency services, while also posing safety risks due to reduced visibility. The area’s coastal environment is particularly vulnerable to degradation, further supporting the need for restrictions.

Village Road Reserves – Kimbolton

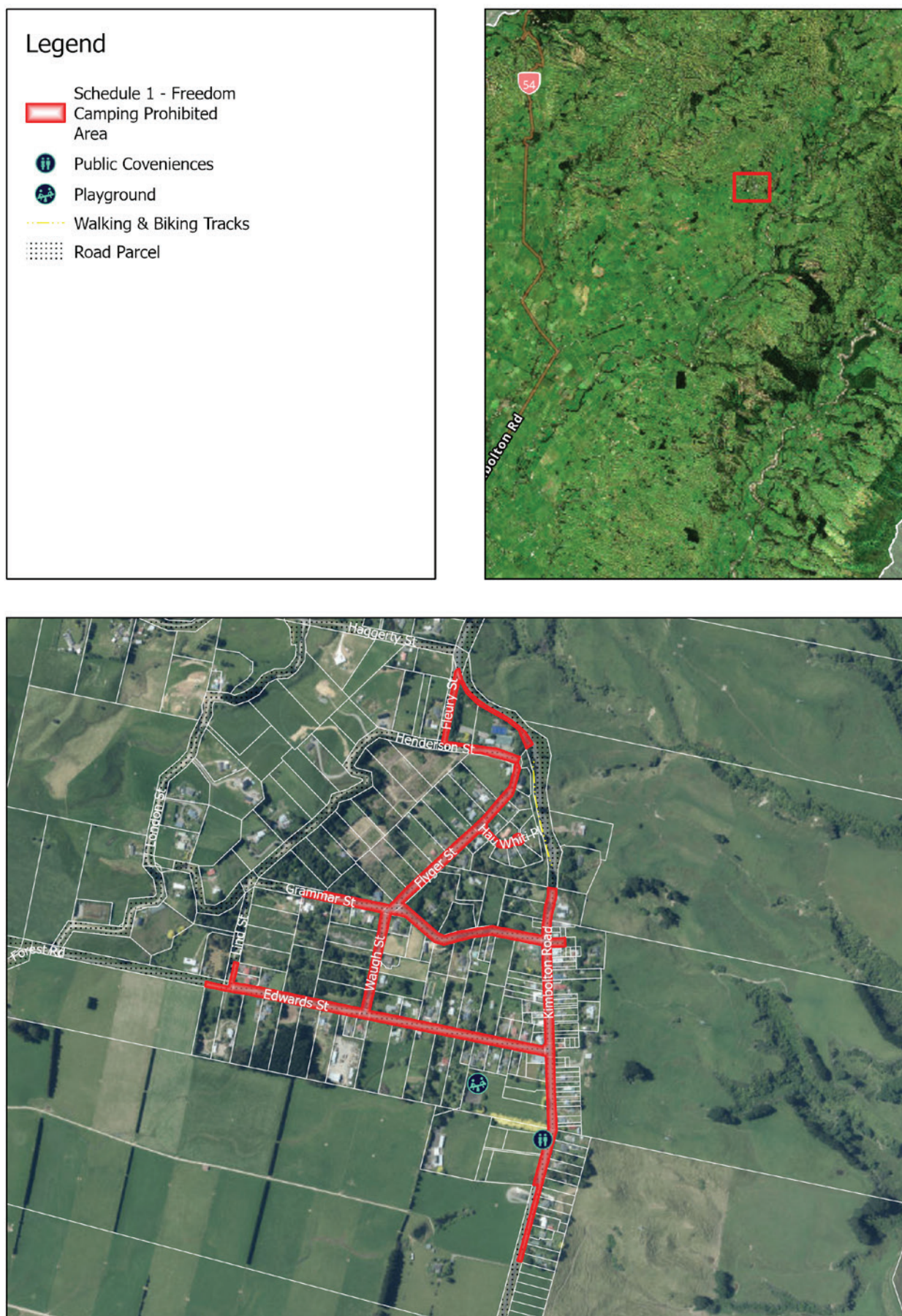


Figure 25 - Village Road Reserves - Kimbolton

Village Road Reserves – Kimbolton

Kimbolton is a small rural village appreciated for its gardens and quiet charm. It has a compact layout and a close-knit community environment.

Facilities

No water or public toilet facilities available.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No significant concerns identified.

Health and Safety

Most roads within Kimbolton Village are narrow, and even the wider roads can become obstructed by large camping vehicles. This can block access, reduce sight lines, and create safety risks for other drivers.

Pedestrians are also at risk, as they must share corridors and recreational areas with parked camping vehicles, often with limited visibility.

Access

Access is restricted due to unformed kerb and channel berms, along with the presence of large open swale drains, which further limit manoeuvrability.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	4	4	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Kimbolton Road Reserves

It is recommended that road reserves in Kimbolton Village be included in the list of prohibited sites for freedom camping. Large vehicles associated with freedom camping could impede access for residents, pedestrians, and emergency services, while also posing significant safety risks due to reduced visibility.

Village Road Reserves – Rongotea



Figure 26 - Village Road Reserves - Rongotea

Village Road Reserves – Rongotea

Rongotea was originally developed as a farming service town. It has a strong rural identity and essential services including shops, a school, and recreational facilities.

Facilities

No water supply or public toilet facilities are available at this site.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No significant concerns identified.

Health and Safety

Most roads in Rongotea Village are narrow, and the parking of large camping vehicles can block access, reduce sight lines, and create safety hazards for other road users. Pedestrians are also at risk, as they must share corridors and recreational spaces with parked vehicles, often with limited visibility. Power poles located within berms further restrict access and contribute to safety concerns. However, Thames Street and Mersey Street are exceptions - these streets are sufficiently wide and allow vehicles to park without causing visual obstructions or significant traffic safety issues.

Access

Access is generally restricted due to unformed kerb and channel berms, as well as the presence of open stormwater drains and swales. Thames Street and Mersey Street are again exceptions, offering wide, formed kerb and channel that support safer and more practical vehicle access.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	4	4	9
Significance Score for those streets with formed kerb and channel	1	2	2	5

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO (YES for those streets with formed kerb and channel)	NO	NO

Recommendations – Rongotea Road Reserves

It is recommended that all road reserves in Rongotea Village, with the exception of Thames Street and Mersey Street, be included in the list of prohibited sites for freedom camping. Large vehicles used for camping may obstruct access for residents, pedestrians, and emergency services, and create road safety risks by reducing visibility.

Village Road Reserves – Sanson



Figure 27 - Village Road Reserves - Sanson

Village Road Reserves – Sanson

Sanson is located at the junction of State Highways 1 and 3. It has a rich transport history and is known for its antique stores, cafes, and weekend markets.

Facilities

No water supply or public toilet facilities are available at this site,

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No significant concerns identified.

Health and Safety

Most roads in Sanson Village are narrow, and even the wider roads may be obstructed by large camping vehicles, which can block access and reduce visibility - creating potential safety risks for other road users.

Pedestrians are also at risk due to shared use of narrow corridors and recreational spaces with limited sight lines. Additionally, State Highway 1 runs directly through Sanson, resulting in busy intersections and increased difficulty crossing roads safely.

Access

Access is limited due to unformed kerb and channel berms, and the presence of open stormwater drains and swales.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	4	4	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Sanson Road Reserves

That road reserves in Sanson village excluding State Highway 1 and 3 be included in the list of prohibited sites for Freedom Camping. Large vehicles used for freedom camping could impede access for residents, pedestrians, and emergency services and impact on road safety by reducing visibility.

Village Road Reserves – Tangimoana Beach

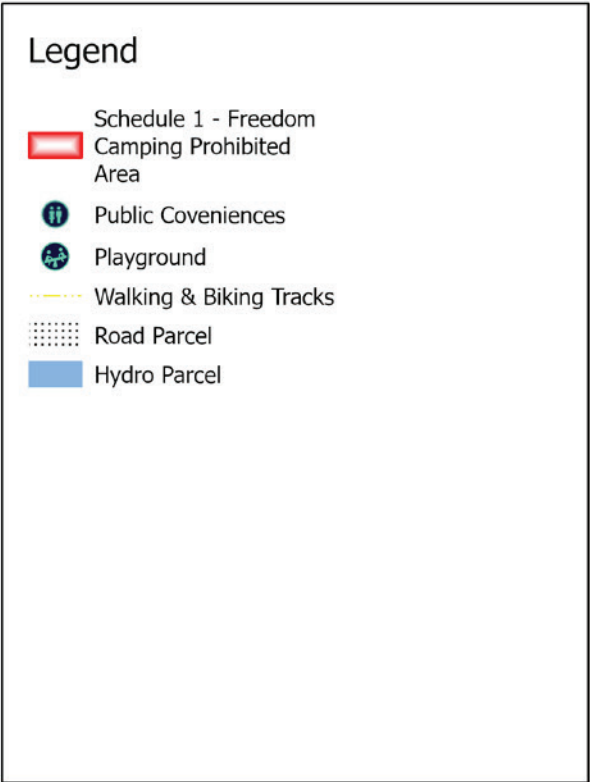


Figure 28 - Village Road Reserves - Tangimoana

Village Road Reserves – Tangimoana Beach

Tangimoana is a beachside village that sits near the mouth of the Rangitīkei River and features a community centre, boat ramp, and access to fishing and coastal walks.

Facilities

No water supply or public toilet facilities are available at this site.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The area holds cultural and historical importance for the Tangimoana community. The coastal environment is also particularly sensitive to the impacts of human activity and vehicle use.

Health and Safety

Most roads in Tangimoana Beach Village are narrow, and even on wider roads, parked camping vehicles can obstruct access and impair sight lines, creating safety hazards for other vehicles.

Pedestrians are at increased risk due to the need to share narrow corridors and recreational areas with large vehicles, especially where visibility is limited. These risks are heightened during the summer months when visitor numbers and the presence of families increase. Tangimoana is also subject to flood risk.

Access

Access is restricted by the presence of grass berms with no kerbing, and power poles positioned within berms contribute to health and safety concerns by further limiting manoeuvrability.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	3	3	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Tangimoana Beach Road Reserves

It is recommended that road reserves in Tangimoana Beach Village be included in the list of prohibited sites for freedom camping. Large vehicles associated with freedom camping could impede access for residents, pedestrians, and emergency services, while also reducing visibility and compromising safety. Additionally, as a coastal settlement, Tangimoana is particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation caused by increased vehicle activity.

Tangimoana Estuarine Reserves



Figure 29 - Tangimoana Estuarine Reserves

Tangimoana Estuarine Reserves

These reserves are managed in accordance with Council's Coastal Reserves Management Plan (October 2019).

Reserves in Tangimoana contribute to the special natural character and environment that is valued by residents and that attracts visitors to the township. Reserves include walkways that connect parts of the township, the playground, open green spaces, vegetation, wetlands and habitats for terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna. Many of the reserves are in the estuarine and river environment on the northern side of the township. Reserves within the township are pleasant environments for walking, picnicking, community events, play and casual recreation activities. The community is engaged in the development and on-going management and maintenance of some of the reserves.

The estuarine reserves are made up of West Square and a number of small reserve areas on the river side of the township. Most of the reserves are undeveloped and bisected by an old river loop to the north of Kuku Street.

Facilities

Parts of the Reserve have been developed with native planting beds, grassed areas for picnicking, visitor information, and picnic tables.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

Natural vegetation in these reserves has largely been lost. However, the reserves and old river loop are important habitat for freshwater fish and birds.

Health and Safety

Tangimoana is at risk of flooding.

Access

There is no vehicle access or parking at West Square or any of the other Estuarine Reserves except a flat area at Kina Street Reserve. Please see schedule 3, page 100-101 for more information on Kina Street Reserve. A walkway and cycle way have been developed along the stopbank and link West Square to Ellison Reserve.

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	4	3	5	12

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Significance Score: All Tangimoana Estuarine Reserves except Kina Street Reserve

Recommendations – Tangimoana Beach Estuarine Reserves

That freedom camping is prohibited at the Tangimoana Beach Estuarine Reserves due to known flood risk and the potential for freedom camping to adversely affect natural features and sensitive habitats. The Kina Street Reserve is the only reserve that has vehicle access and a public toilet. Please see Kina Street Reserve, Tangimoana, page 100 - 101, for an area in the Punga Street road reserve where freedom camping is allowed.

Vista Reserve



Figure 30 - Location and Perimeter of Vista Reserve

Vista Reserve – Feilding

The reserve serves the local community with a grassed area, play equipment, seat and trees for shade, shelter and amenity.

Facilities

No facilities currently.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The reserve is designated as a “Recreation Reserve” under the Reserves Act 1977.

Health and Safety

No particular concerns.

Access

There is no vehicle access to this park and no parking area.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	5	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
NO	NO	NO

Recommendations – Vista Reserve

That this site be added to the list of prohibited freedom camping sites. This site is unsuitable for freedom camping as it has no access, facilities or parking provision.

Schedule 2

Freedom Camping Restricted Areas for Self-contained Vehicles Only



Feilding Central Business District Car Parks

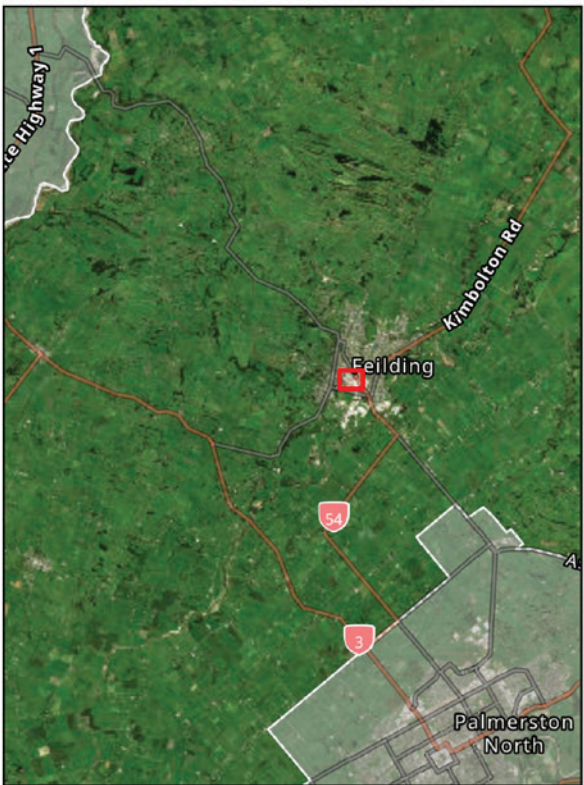
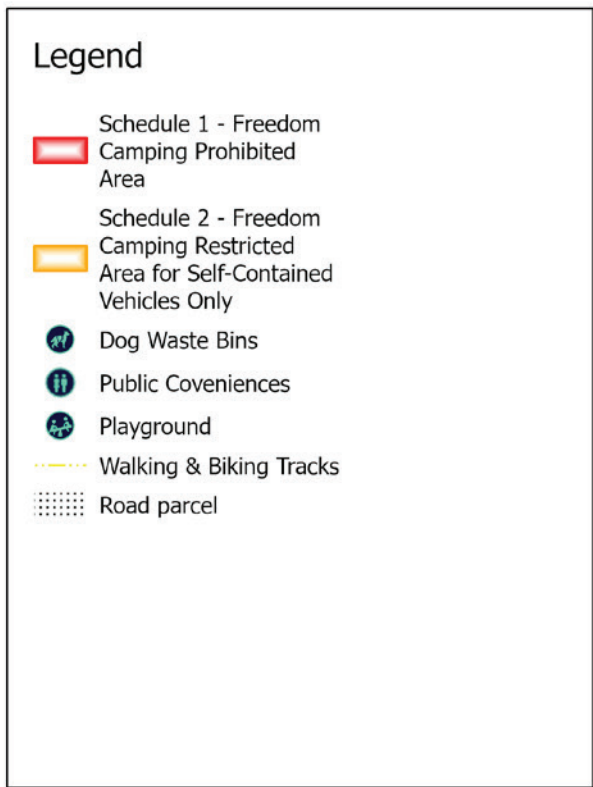


Figure 31 - Location and Perimeter of Feilding Central Business District including Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only

Eyre Street Carparks



Figure 32 - Location and Perimeter of Eyre Street Carparks including Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only

Fergusson Street Carpark



Figure 33 - Location and Perimeter of Fergusson Street Carpark including Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only

Manchester Street Carpark

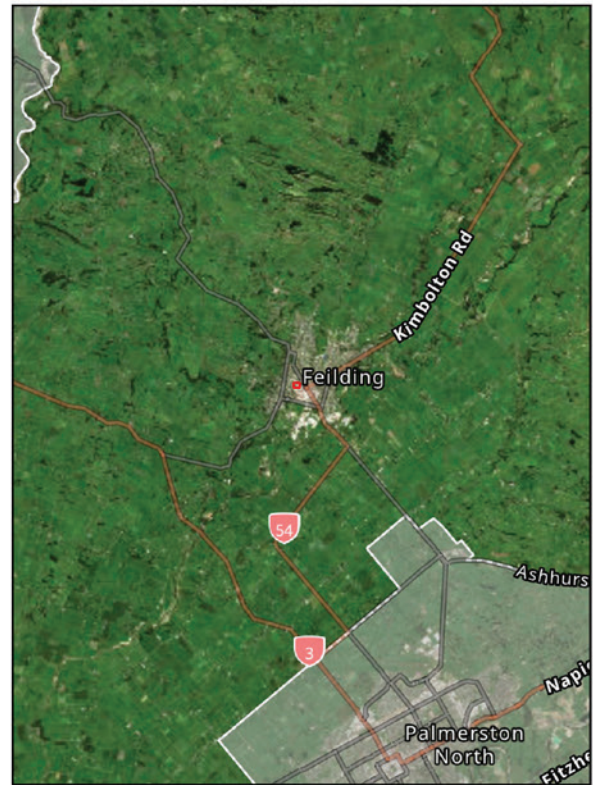
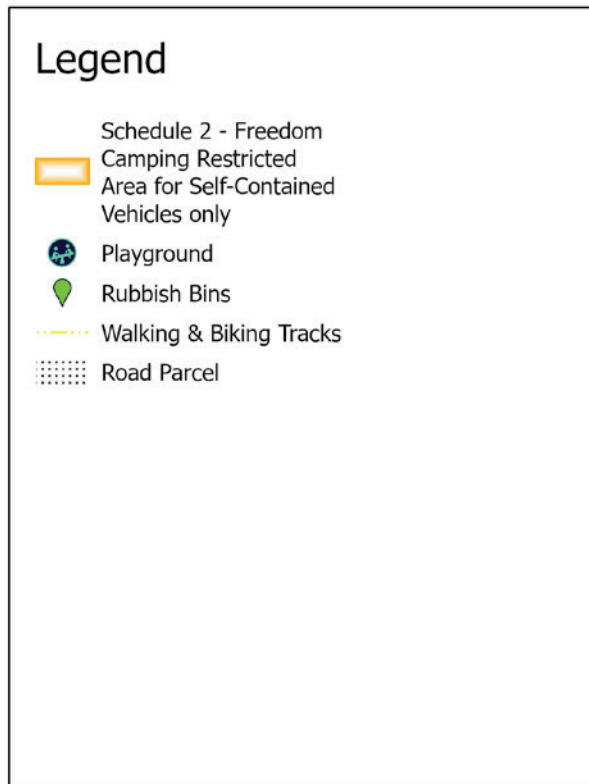


Figure 34 - Location and Perimeter of Manchester Street Carpark including Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only

Feilding Central Business District Car Parks

The Feilding Central Business District (CBD) is the main commercial centre of the District and regularly hosts a wide range of community events. While most streets are too narrow to accommodate large vehicles, there are four large car parks within the area suitable for overnight freedom camping in self-contained vehicles. These car parks provide a convenient option for visitors to enjoy local dining and safely stay overnight.

Facilities

Paved carpark areas available for overnight stays.

Located within walking distance of local restaurants and the Feilding Clock Tower.

Toilet facilities are not located within a practical distance from the designated car parks.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The wider CBD holds significant cultural and historical value for the Manawatū community.

Health and Safety

Large vehicles may obstruct visibility, particularly during busy periods, increasing the risk to both pedestrians and drivers.

Access

These car parks are heavily used by the Manawatū community during the day. Due to ongoing concerns about parking availability, time-limited parking has been introduced throughout the Feilding CBD.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	2	2	7

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	NO	NO

Recommendations – Feilding Central Business District Car Parks

Freedom camping in these car parks is restricted to self-contained vehicles only, due to the lack of accessible toilet facilities.

Kimbolton Domain



Figure 35 - Location and Perimeter of Kimbolton Domain including Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only

Kimbolton Domain

This domain hosts multiple fields and often plays host to the Feilding Old Boys/Oroua Rugby Football Club home games in the local Senior Men's Rugby competition. Also located at the domain are tennis courts and a bowling green which are well utilised by the community.

Facilities

The domain is located at the southern entrance to Kimbolton at 2861 Kimbolton Road. Public toilets are located at the opposite end of the park, approximately 200m from the carpark. There is no public access to a water supply.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The Domain was set aside for public use in 1886 and was known as Kimbolton Cricket and Sportsground. The first sports meeting was held in 1890, the cricket club was established in 1892 and the sportsground was used for rugby, cricket, athletics, horse sports and community events.

The domain is accessed from Kimbolton Road through gates that were erected in the 1950's to commemorate Kimbolton community members who were killed during World War II. The Kimbolton Domain Memorial Gates are listed as a Category B heritage item in Schedule 4b (Significant Historic Built Heritage) of the Manawātū District Plan. The memorial gates are protected as a heritage item but this heritage protection does not extend beyond the gates to the wider domain.

A memorial and information kiosk next to the entrance was erected in 1986 in memory of the early settlers and the Kīwitea County Council for their role in the development of the district.

A grass bowling green, the Kimbolton community hall and an historic library lies on the northern side of the Domain. This area is accessed from Edwards Street and separated from the playing fields, playground and hardcourt area of the domain by a steep bank and shelter vegetation. The Kimbolton Public Library is listed as a Category B building of heritage value in Schedule 4b of the Manawātū District Plan. The cottage was gifted to the Kīwitea County Council Library Committee in 1950 and is managed by the Council alongside the Kimbolton Community Committee. Kimbolton Hall was built in 1917 and has been used as a picture theatre, theatre productions, school jubilees and other community events and meetings.

An avenue of elm trees was planted in the 1950's along the entrance to the domain. Other vegetation in the domain is generally non-native, with some specimen trees along the eastern boundary and along with driveway, and shelter plantings on the western boundary.

Health and Safety

No known flood risk.

Access

There is a hardstand parking area that is accessed from Kimbolton Road.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	1	1	5

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	NO	NO

Recommendations – Kimbolton Domain

While the Kimbolton Domain has high historical significance, the use of the carparking area for freedom camping is unlikely to impact on these values.

There is no public access to the facilities within the buildings at the domain. The carpark area is approximately 200 metres from the public toilets. Therefore, this site is only considered to be suitable for self-contained freedom camping. Also, there is no access to a water supply on site.

As this is an asphalt parking area and the only grassed areas are playing fields, this site it is not suitable for tenting.

Menzies Ford



Figure 36 - Location and Perimeter of Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only - Menzies Ford

Menzies Ford

This reserve is on a river flat and has river access, with a swimming hole, and an open grassed area with space for recreation, picnicking and camping, native planting along the driveway and trees for shade and amenity. The reserve is a dog exercise area. A parking area with gate and bollards control vehicle access due to an issue with cars damaging the grassed area.

Facilities

There are no facilities on this site.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The Ōroua River runs along the eastern boundary of the site. As there are no facilities, including no public toilets at this site, there is potential for human waste to enter the River, which is of concern to Māori culturally.

The reserve is in close proximity to the Ōroua River which provides swimming opportunity. The water is regularly tested by Horizons Regional Council to ensure user safety.

Health and Safety

The designated carpark provides a physical barrier to campers from users on the grassed area which improves safety. The Ōroua river water quality is monitored to further protect users and dogs etc. The reserve is highly visible from the road which also increases safety of overnight users.

Several park benches are located under tall mature trees which are monitored to protect users as far as is reasonably practicable.

Council's Senior Emergency Management Adviser is of the opinion that the carpark is sufficiently set back from the main river channel so as to not be significantly at risk during a flood event. This opinion is consistent with Horizons flood modelling for a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event (Figure 37) which shows only shallow flooding of up to 0.2m around the boundary of the carpark.

However, modelled flood depths increase significantly (over 3.5m deep in places) upon approaching the Ōroua River channel. As there is no flood warning system for this location, the risk to campers staying close to the river would be significant during a flood event. The nearest river level monitoring site on the Ōroua River is at Almadale.

The Ōroua River at this location is part of a flood control and drainage scheme managed by Horizons. Activities within 10 metres of the bed of the River may require consent from Horizons. No new structures or activities are proposed at this time.

Horizons discourages new activities, habitable buildings (including structures) or extensions within the full river channel extent. There are no open areas for freedom camping within that part of the site that is mapped as the full river channel.

Access

Menzies Ford has a carpark which is lined with bollards, preventing vehicles from driving onto the grassed area of the reserve. This protects the environment from vehicle damage and also fly-tipping to a degree.

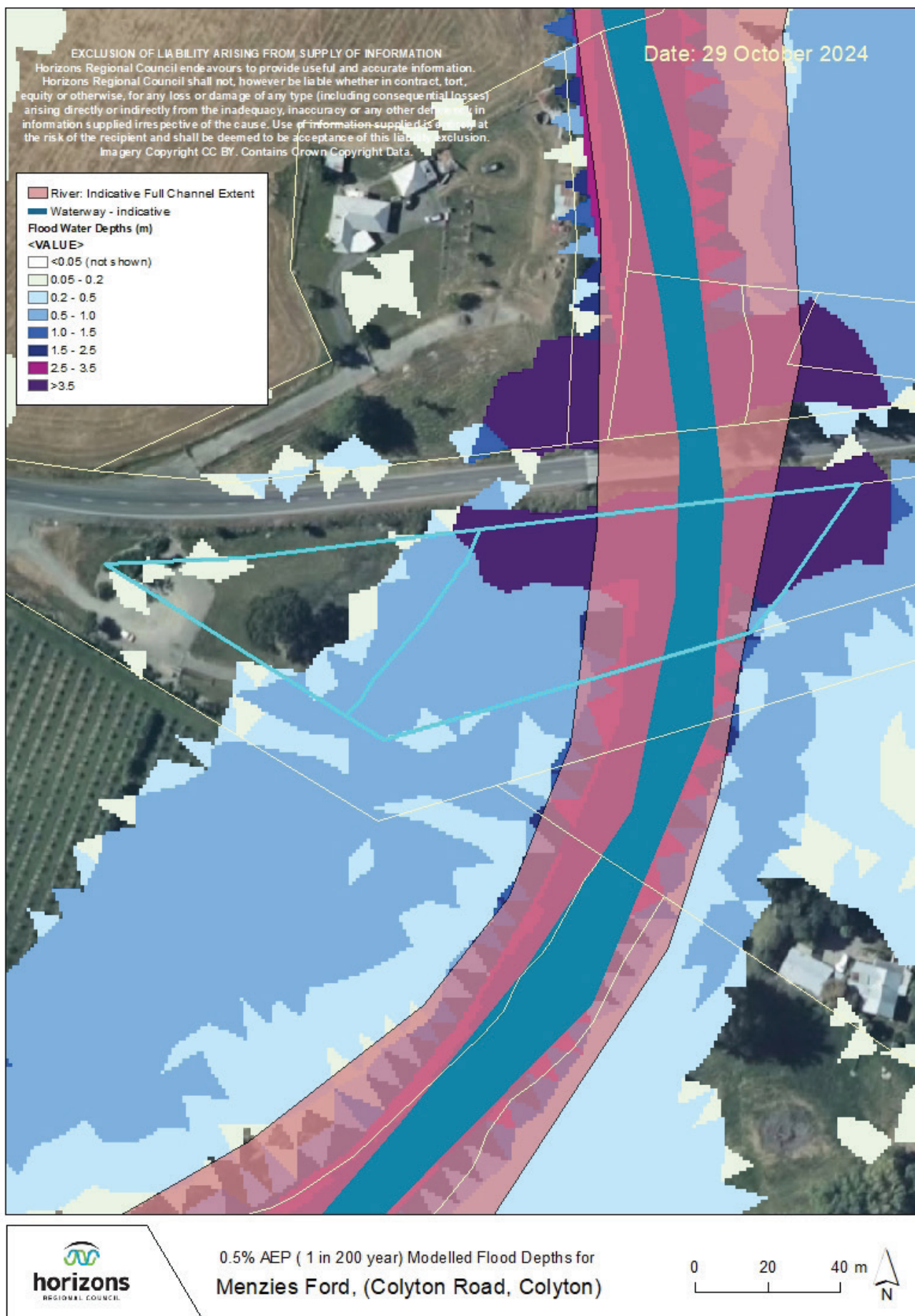


Figure 37 - Horizons 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood modelling and full channel of the Ōroua River at Menzies Ford

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	2	2	7

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	NO	NO

Recommendations – Menzies Ford

It is recommended that Menzies Ford is included within the list of restricted freedom camping sites, meaning that it is suitable for self-contained freedom camping only. This site is not considered suitable for non-self-contained freedom camping due to the lack of facilities and the flood risk to sites closer to the river.

Given the flood risk at this site, it is also recommended that a sign be installed at this site that recommends visitors sign up to Horizons River Alert System for Almadale (the nearest river monitoring site).



Pohangina Domain

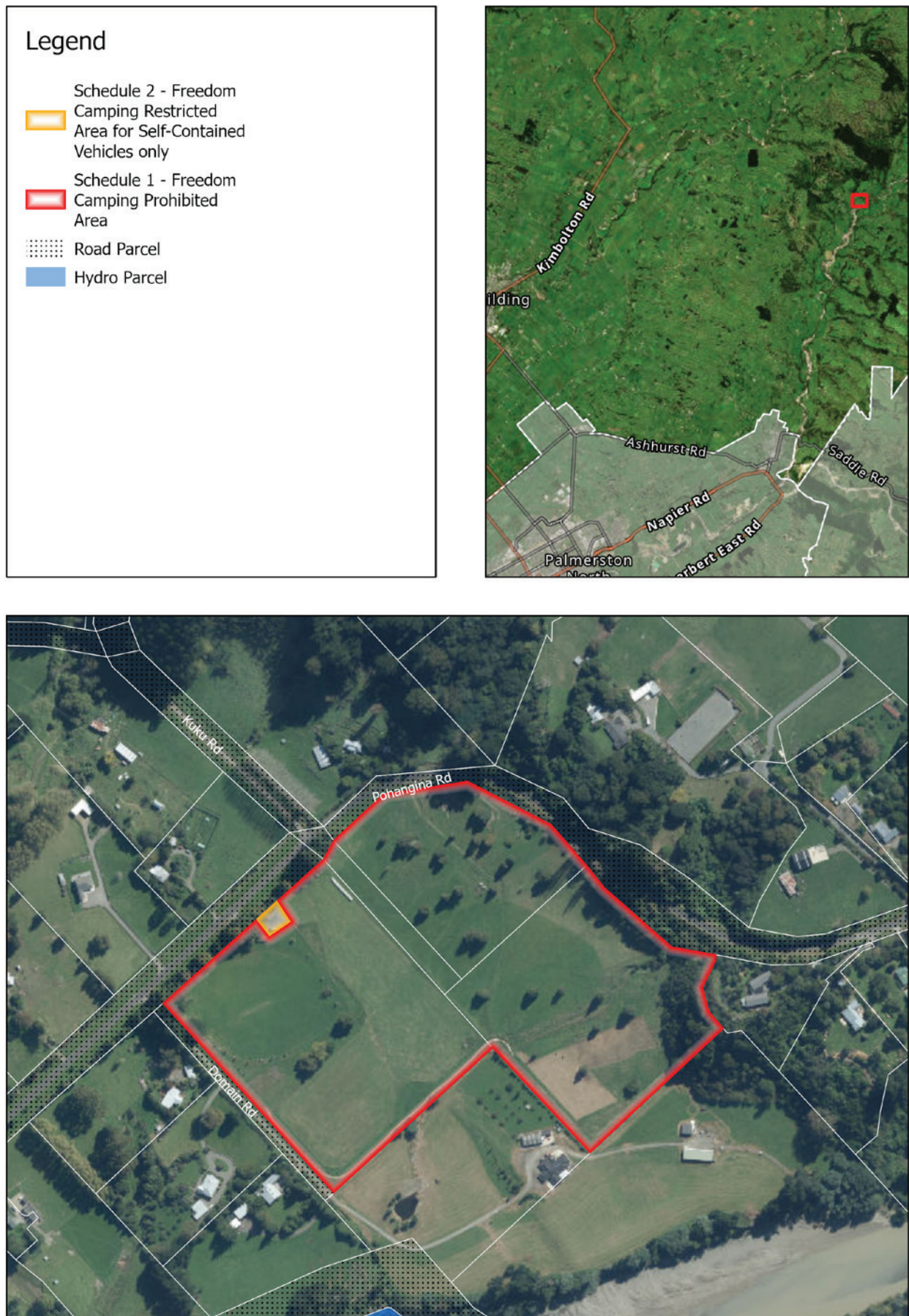


Figure 38 - Location and Perimeter of Pohangina Domain including Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only

Pohangina Domain

The domain is relatively flat and rises to the north western boundary. Large historic elms mark the road boundary and mature kahikatea are scattered throughout the reserve. Most of the reserve is grazed.

The domain was established in 1891 and administered by the Pohangina Domain Board from 1897 to 1980, managed by the Pohangina Reserves Committee and since 1990 by Manawātū District Council. Early photos show picnics and events such as wood chopping competitions.

A landscape and development plan has been prepared, workshopped and adopted by the Community Committee and Council.

Facilities

The Pohangina Domain does not have toilets but has a hardstand area and water to the site (at the back of the pavilion). This water is not treated so a boil water notice would be required.

The entrance has a small car park and picnic area with picnic tables. A small cricket pavilion stands near the domain entrance.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

Nothing of significance from a cultural, environmental or historical perspective.

Health and Safety

No specific health and safety concerns except that there are no public toilets at the site. If the site was to be used for non-self-contained freedom camping there is a risk of human waste contaminating the site and surrounding area.

Access

There is a small car park at the entrance to the domain.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	3	1	5

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	NO	NO

Recommendations – Pohangina Domain

Freedom camping at this site should be restricted to self-contained vehicles only as there are no public toilets available. A boil water notice should be attached to the water source to protect public health.

Pohangina Valley Lookout



Figure 39 - Location and Perimeter of Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only - Pohangina Valley Lookout

Pohangina Valley Lookout

The lookout is accessed from Valley Road. The entrance area is flat with parking and picnic tables. A steep track leads to the lookout which is mown with a picnic table and shade tree. The lookout has views over Pohangina Valley. The reserve is a dog exercise area.

Facilities

There are no facilities at this site currently except for picnic tables and a parking area.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No known sites of significance to Māori.

No special environmental concerns or areas of significance.

Health and Safety

No specific health and safety concerns except that there are no public toilets at the site. If the site was to be used for non-self-contained freedom camping there is a risk of human waste contaminating the site and surrounding area.

Access

There is an entranceway and flat area for parking.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	2	2	5

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	NO	NO

Recommendations – Pohangina Valley Lookout

Provision for self-contained vehicles only as there are no facilities to support non-self-contained freedom camping.



Figure 40 - Horizons 0.5% AEP modelled flood information for the Sanson Domain

Wear Street Carpark at Te Kawau Memorial



Figure 41 - Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only - Wear Street Carpark at Te Kawau Memorial

Wear Street Carpark by the Recycling Centre and the Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre, Rongotea

Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre was built in 1998 and opened on June 25, 1999. The building is owned by the Manawātū District Council, but the land that the building sits on is owned by the Ministry of Education. There are two carparking areas serving the Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre and the associated playing fields – one on Wye Street in front of the centre, and one on Wear Street adjacent to the sports grounds. The Wear Street carpark is owned by Council and is the local authority area that is being considered in relation to freedom camping.

Facilities

The Wear Street carpark contains a recycling centre and a dump station.

The Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre is the home of Te Kawau Rugby. The centre consists of a gymnasium, function room, community meeting room, offices, bar area, storage rooms, kitchen, toilets, changing and shower rooms, first aid room and foyer. Disabled access is available at this location. However, these facilities are not available for the general public.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No known sites of significance to Māori.

No known significance environmentally or historically.

Health and Safety

No significant concerns except that there are no readily accessible toilets at the site. Access to the Recreation Centre facilities requires a key and the exterior toilets are sometimes locked by users. This means that the facilities cannot be relied on by non-self-contained freedom campers.

Horizons has not modelled flood risk at this site.

Access

Access to this parking area is off Wear Street. It is a hardstand area with ample space for maneuvering. The parking area is sometimes used for organised events or can become full when events are on at the adjacent playing fields.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	2	1	4

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	NO	NO

Recommendations – Wear Street Carpark by the Recycling Centre and the Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre

As there is not reliable access to public toilets, it is recommended that this site be limited to freedom camping in self-contained vehicles only.

A further restriction that could be imposed is the ability for Council's Enforcement Officers to ask freedom campers to relocate if there is an event on at the Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre or the adjacent playing fields that means parking capacity could be an issue.

Schedule 3

Freedom Camping Restricted Areas



Almadale Reserve

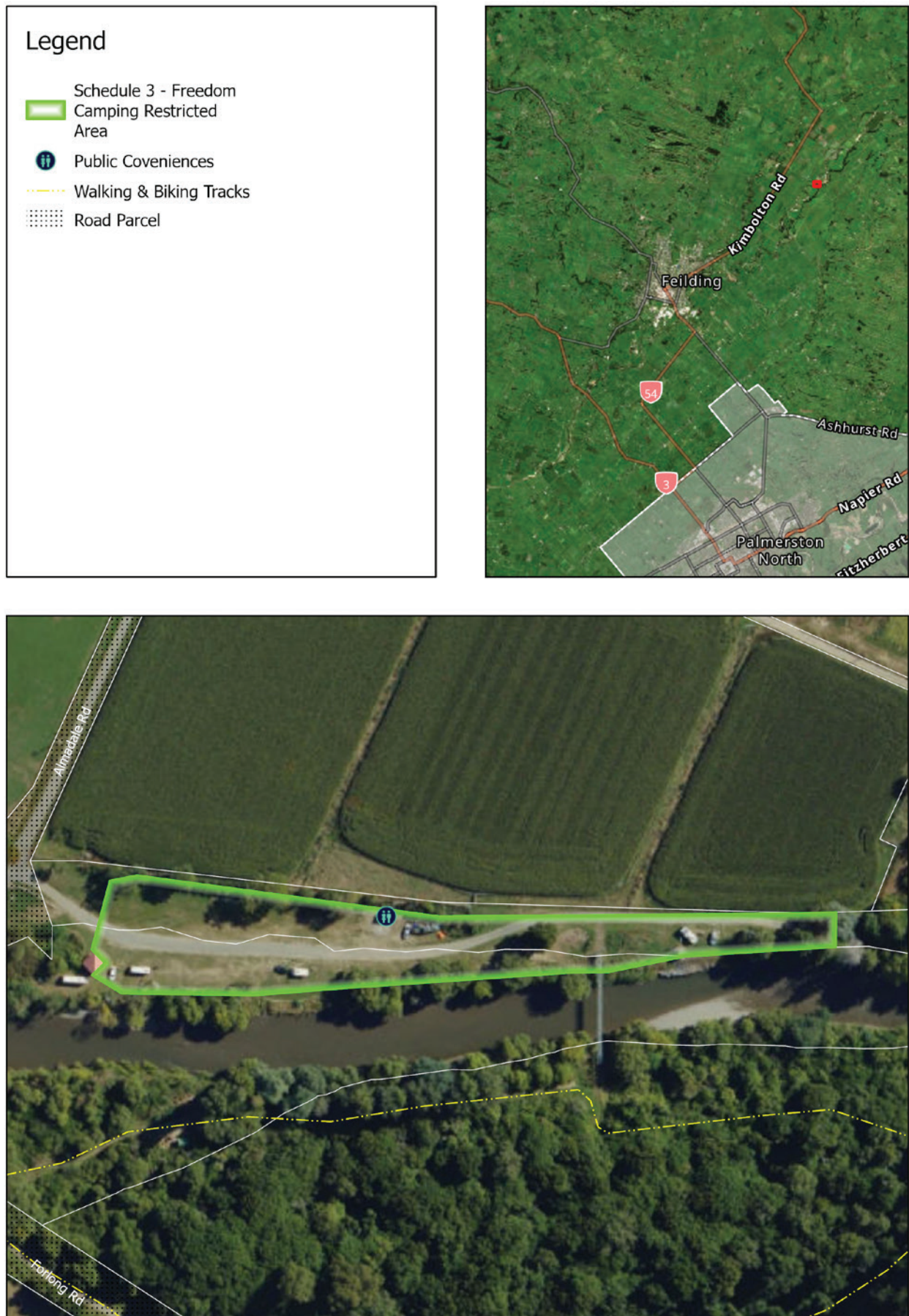


Figure 42 – Location and Perimeter of Freedom Camping Restricted Area - Almadale Reserve

Almadale Reserve

The reserve entrance area that contains the toilets and shelter and is used for camping, picnicking and river access (Pt Lot 12 DP 73 Blk XI Oroua SD) is classified as a Scenic Reserve in Council's District Wide Reserves Management Plan (October 2019). Part of the river bank has been cleared of vegetation to allow access to the river. A shelter is attached to a pump station.

A bridge across the Ōroua River provides public access to the Almadale Reserve.

Facilities

- Toilets (open 24/7)
- Rubbish bin
- There is no potable water on site.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The Ōroua River runs along the southern boundary of this site. While the proximity to the Ōroua River poses a risk of human waste entering the waterway, the provision of public toilets reduces this risk.

This site is also in close proximity to a reserve containing native flora and fauna. However this bush area is across the river from this site and there is no vehicular access across the river. There has been one species of flora identified in the area that is a taonga for Māori which increases the cultural significance of this site.

The reserve is in close proximity to the Ōroua River which provides swimming opportunity. The water is regularly tested by Horizons Regional Council to ensure user safety.

The Ōroua River is not identified as a significant site, though protection of this environment is promoted.

Health and Safety

Campers park on a grassed terrace that runs parallel with the Ōroua river. During high-flow events this area can be inundated. Figure 43 on the following page shows flood modelling for a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event. This modelling suggests that parts of the reserve would be inundated during a 0.5% AEP flood to depths of up to 1.0 metre.

This site is partially within the full Ōroua River Channel (pink shading on Figure 43 next page). Horizons discourages new activities, habitable buildings (including structures) or extensions within the full river channel extent. The area where freedom campers park is within the full Ōroua River Channel extent.

This section of the Ōroua River is managed by Horizons as part of a flood control and drainage scheme. Consent may therefore be required from Horizons for certain activities within 10 metres of the bed of the river, including new structures, land disturbance or planting. No new activities associated with freedom camping are proposed at this site.

Horizons aerial photography from the 2004 flood event suggests that the majority of this property was affected. However, it is not known to what depth it flooded.

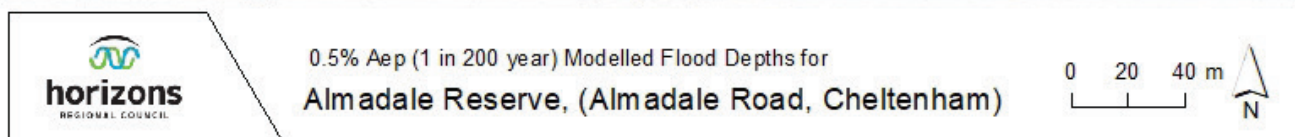
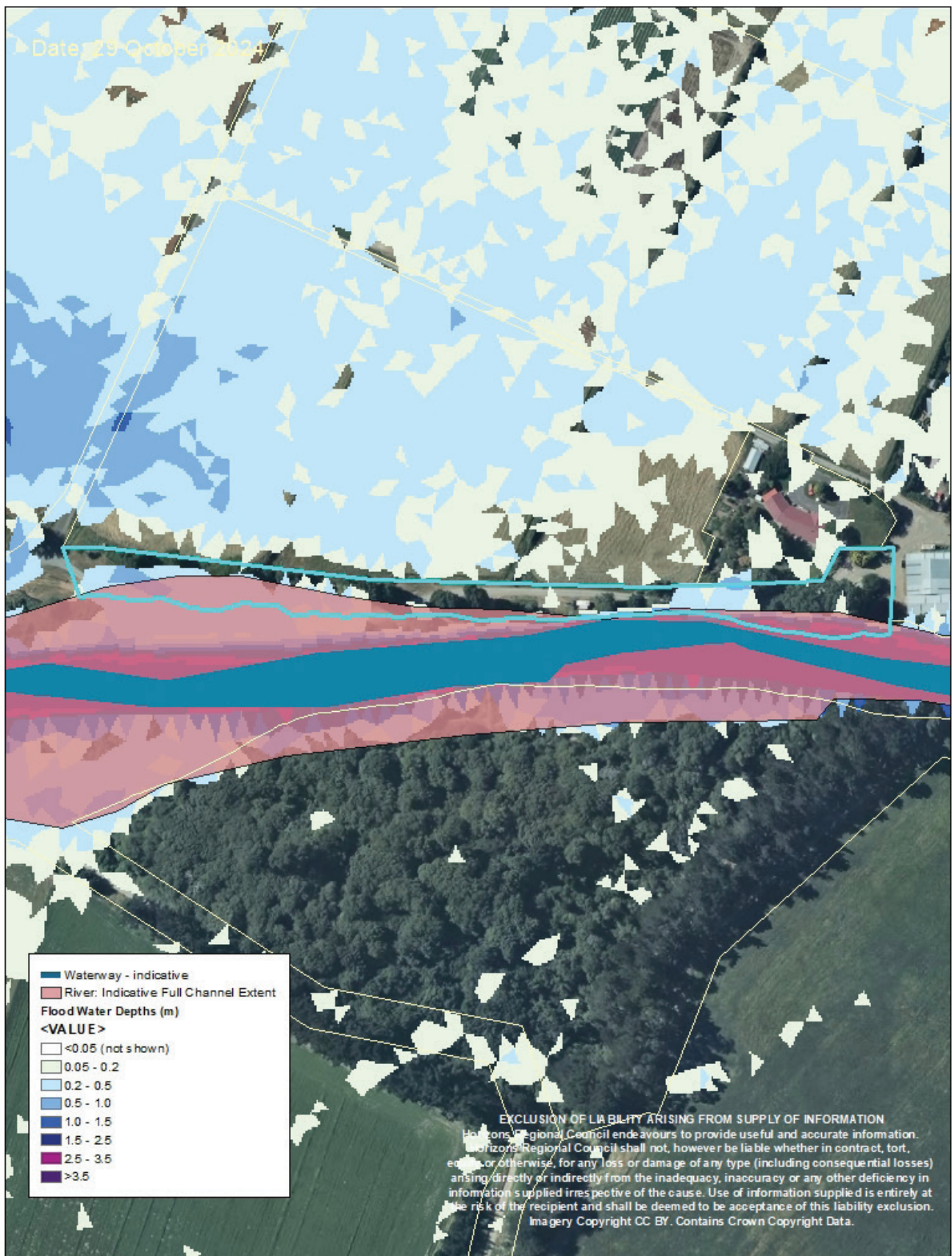


Figure 43 - Horizons full river channel and modelled flood information for Almadale Reserve

Almadale Reserve Cont...

Council's Senior Emergency Management Adviser has confirmed that there is a river level monitoring site in close proximity to Almadale Reserve. This monitoring site serves as a trigger for emergency response downstream at Kopane Bridge and Timona Park. The Ōroua River Flood Action Plan does not include a trigger level for evacuation of Almadale Reserve and it is not known at what river level this reserve would be inundated.

Given that Almadale Reserve is upstream of Timona Park, the river levels that trigger the evacuation of Timona Park would not give sufficient warning for emergency management staff to be able to evacuate this reserve.

There are no physical barriers stopping vehicles from accidentally driving over the edge into the river, potentially causing serious injury or death. Promoting this as a freedom camping spot following the by-law review might require the installation of specific parking spaces with physical barriers.

The river is a popular swimming spot and is monitored by Horizons for water quality which protects users.

This is an isolated reserve and as such has the associated risks from anti-social behavior.

Access

Self-contained campers are able to park along the Ōroua river in grassed areas off the access road. The site is publicly accessible.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	3	2	8

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES	YES

Recommendations – Almadale Reserve

It is recommended that the Almadale Reserve be included in Schedule 3 of the bylaw – being suitable for all forms of freedom camping, subject to restrictions. Council's Senior Emergency Management Adviser recommends that a sign be installed at the Almadale Reserve that advises visitors that river levels can rise quickly, and includes information on how to subscribe to Horizons river alert system.

Provision for freedom camping within the entrance area of the reserve (Pt Lot 12 DP 73 Blk XI Oroua SD) is consistent with Council's District Wide Reserves Management Plan (October 2019).

Āpiti Reserve



Figure 44 - Location and Perimeter of Āpiti Reserve including Freedom Camping Restricted Area

Āpiti Reserve

This is an attractive reserve that has entrance gates, an area with large, deciduous specimen trees and an area that was the reserve's sports field before activities moved to Āpiti School. A small grandstand is all that remains of the past use for sport. A small sharing shed is used by Young Farmers on their field day. It is classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977.

This reserve has traditionally been used for self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping.

An area has been identified within the Āpiti Reserve/Domain by Council's Parks and Property Officer in conjunction with the Āpiti Community Committee. There are no existing leases affected by this initiative and no requirement to enter into a new lease for this activity.

Internal fencing has created a "stock free" space within the reserve.

Facilities

The public toilets and water supply at this reserve were upgraded during the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years and are available 24/7.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

Nothing of known significance to Māori.

This camping spot is located in a rural environment, often with stock (sheep) within the reserve. This reserve currently allows self-contained and non-self-contained due to the provision of public toilets. It is not classed as a significant site.

Health and Safety

There can be stock in the reserve. This could be a risk especially to children if 'bunted' by a sheep. There is associated animal excrement. However, as outlined above, the Āpiti Community Committee, with Council's approval, has constructed an internal fence to create a 'stock free' freedom camping space within the reserve.

This site is not known to be at risk of flooding.

Access

Access to the site is fully formed to a gateway but there is no vehicle driveway within the reserve which can cause damage in the winter/wet.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	3	4	8

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES* within fenced area	YES* within fenced area

Recommendations – Āpiti Reserve

The Reserve has recently upgraded public toilets and water supply that make it suitable for non-self-contained freedom camping. The use of this reserve for freedom camping is consistent with Council's District Wide Reserves Management Plan.

It is recommended that the Āpiti Reserve be included in Schedule 3 of the Bylaw. That is, all forms of Freedom Camping should be provided for within the area that the Āpiti Community Committee has fenced from stock. Freedom Camping should be prohibited elsewhere in the Reserve due to potential conflict with stock.

Bartletts Ford



Figure 45 - Location and Perimeter of Freedom Camping Restricted Area - Bartletts Ford

Bartletts Ford

This site is classified as a Recreation Reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. A grassed area with trees for shelter and shade on a river flat is one of the main camping sites over the summer period. This site is popular for casual summer recreation with river access and swimming. The reserve is a dog exercise area. An area of the reserve is planted in forestry trees and will be harvested in conjunction with the neighbouring property.

Facilities

- Public toilets (open 24/7 from Labour weekend to Easter). These toilets are a dry vault style so cannot accept dumping of liquid waste from tanks.
- Flat grassed area for camping
- River access

There is no source of freshwater or any cleaning or cooking facilities at this site. However, there is a river that can be used as an untreated water source. The water would need to be boiled if it is to be used as drinking water.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The Ōroua River wraps around the eastern and southern boundaries of this site.

The public toilets are open 24/7 during the period from Labour Weekend until Easter. It is a very short walk across flat ground to the public toilets from anywhere in the reserve. The proximity to the toilets minimises the risk of contamination of the waterway with human waste.

No taonga or sites of significance have been identified by iwi.

Horizons information suggests that the embankment of this site has riparian planting (ecosystem type: Tōtara, matai, ribbonwood forest). Any clearing of indigenous vegetation may require consent from Horizons. No vegetation clearance is proposed at this time.

Health and Safety

Swimming and water related risks. The cliffs above the swimming area are unstable and have been known to have slipped in the past. Signage is needed to advise visitors of the risk of swimming near the cliffs.

There are also risks associated with a remote reserve, especially during colder months.

Horizons does not hold any flood modelling for this area to confirm whether or how this property may be affected in a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event.

As shown in Figure 46, part of this site is affected by Horizons indicative flood information. This map also shows the observed flood extent for the 2004 flood event. This observed flood information is based on aerial imagery that was taken after the peak and does not include any depth information.

There is no river level monitoring at this site.

This section of the Ōroua River is managed by Horizons as part of a flood control and drainage scheme. Certain activities within 10 metres of the bed of the river require resource consent under Horizons One Plan. There are no new structures or activities required to support freedom camping that are considered likely to require consent from Horizons.

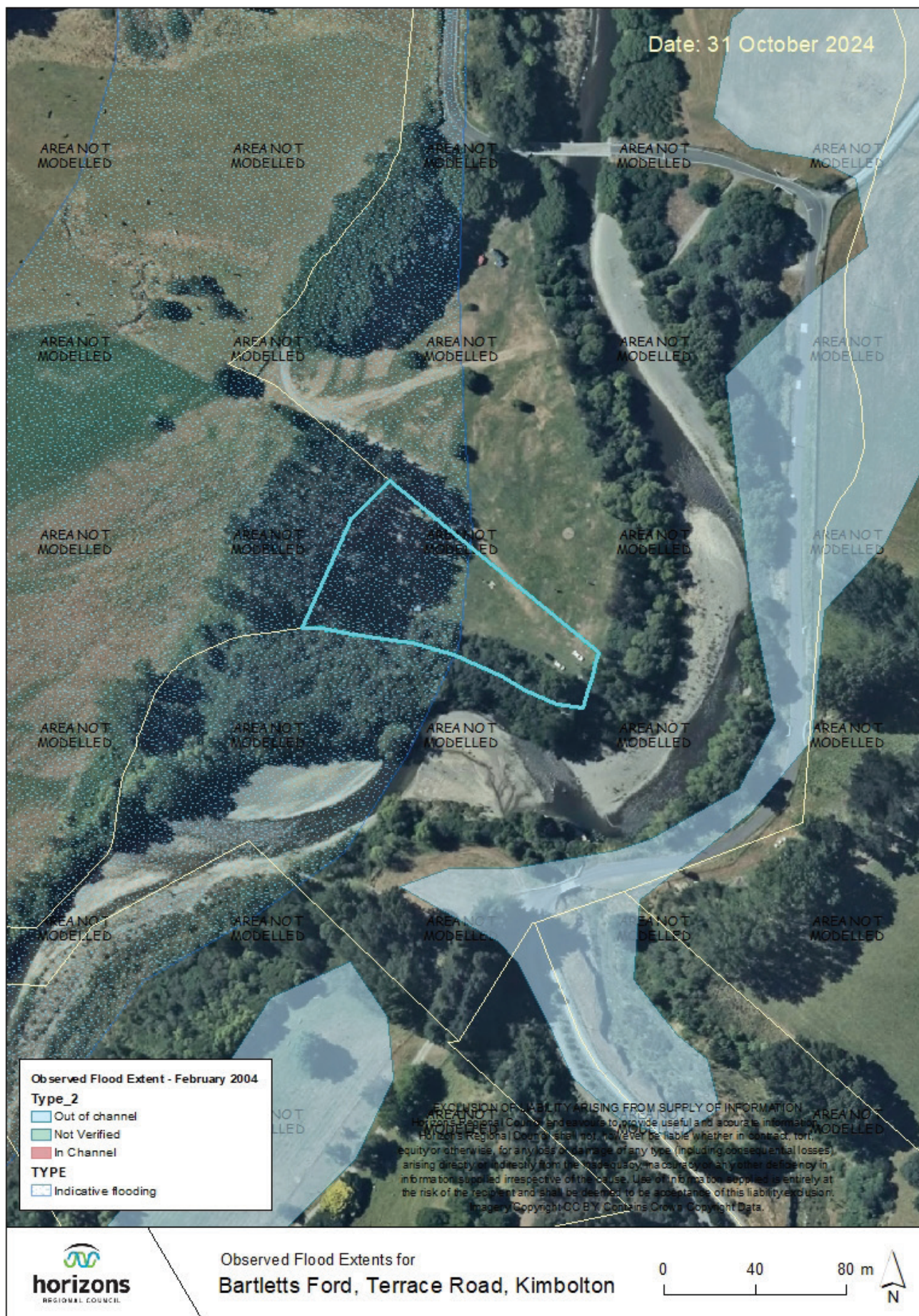


Figure 46 - Observed and indicative flood information for Bartletts Ford

Bartletts Ford Cont...

Access

Access is via a metal road and onto a grassed camping/picnic area. Vehicle movements in winter/wet ground conditions can cause minor damage to grass.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3* if non-self-contained freedom camping is restricted to the period when the toilets are open.	3	2	8

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES* when toilets open	YES* when toilets open

Recommendations – Bartletts Ford

It is recommended that this Reserve be classified as suitable for all forms of freedom camping (i.e. Schedule 3 site) during the period from Labour Weekend until Easter. As the toilets are not open between Easter and Labour weekend any freedom camping should be limited to self-contained during this period.

The cliffs pose a significant health and safety risk for swimmers, but do not pose a significant risk to freedom camping activities. Signage is needed to alert visitors to the risk of swimming near the cliffs.

Freedom campers, particularly those that are tenting or staying in non-self-contained vehicles would need to be aware that there is no source of treated drinking water at this site.

Provision for camping at this site is not inconsistent with Council's District Wide Reserves Management Plan (October 2019).

Council's Senior Emergency Management Adviser recommends that a sign be erected at the site advising of the flood risk and lack of emergency warning systems.

Ellison Reserve Carpark, Tangimoana Beach

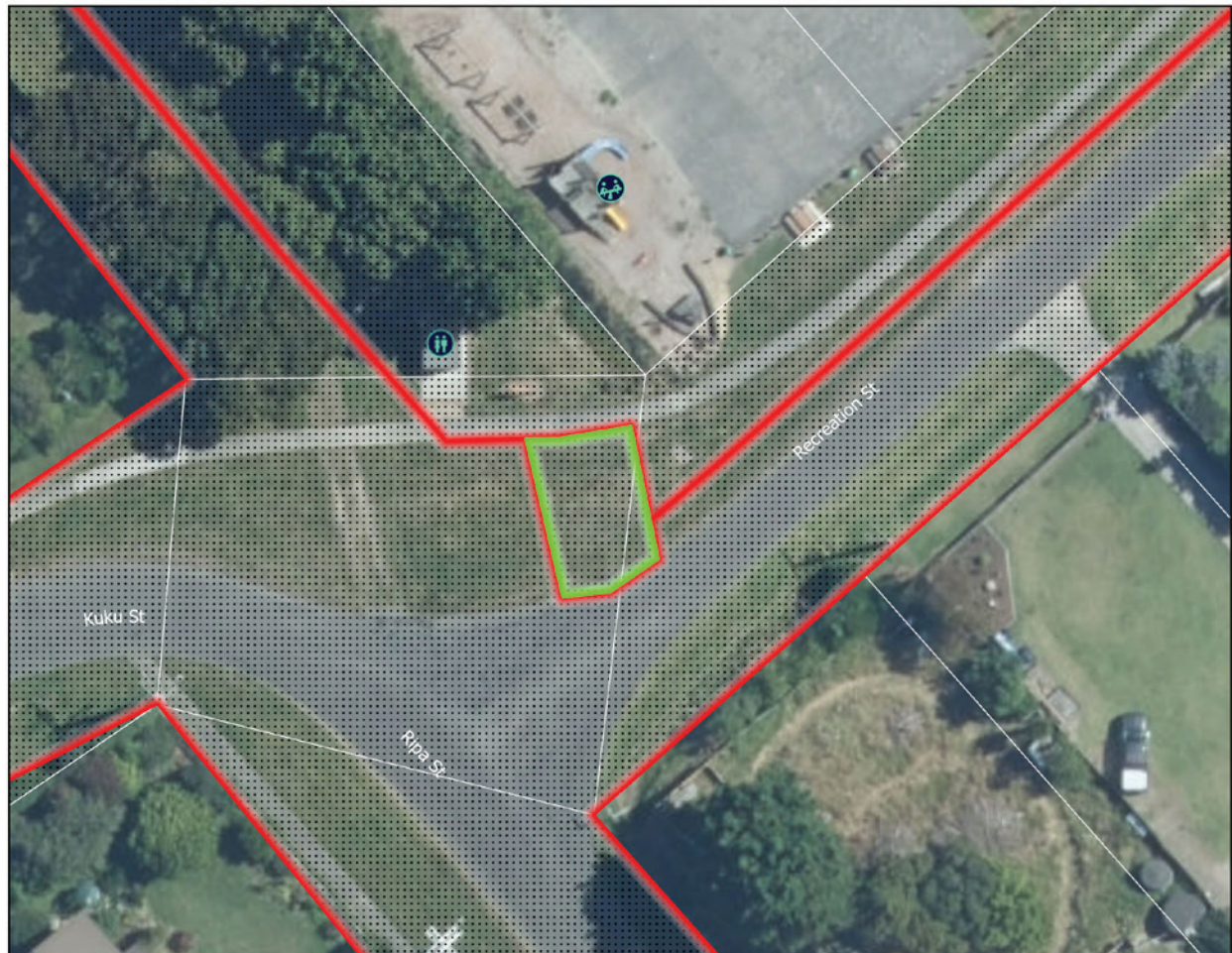
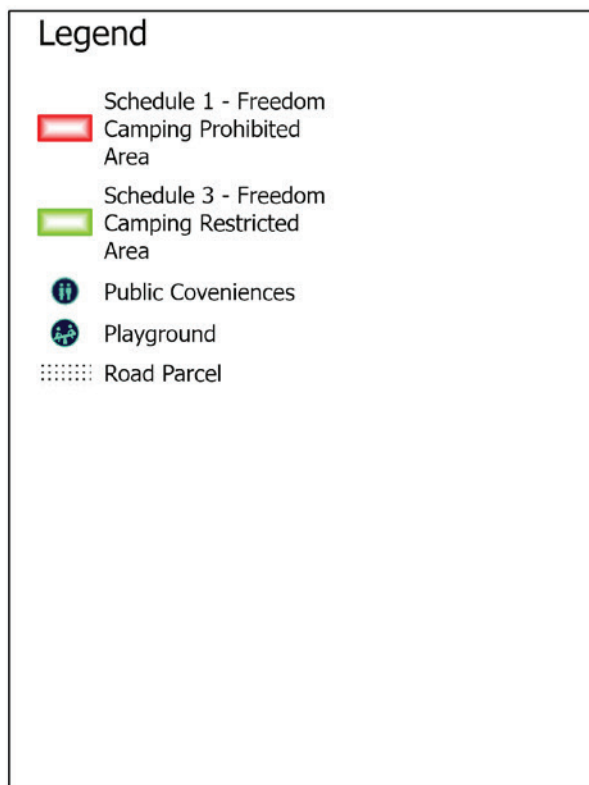


Figure 47 - Location and Perimeter of Freedom Camping Restricted Area - Ellison Reserve Carpark

Ellison Reserve Carpark, Tangimoana Beach

The Ellison Reserve Carpark is a newly constructed hardstand area adjacent to Ellison Reserve. It provides convenient access to both the Reserve and nearby toilet facilities. Ellison Reserve itself is a recreation space in Tangimoana featuring a playground, hard court, and BMX/pump track.

Facilities

Public toilets are open 24/7.
Water facilities are not available at this site.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No known sites of significance to Māori.
There are no adverse environmental concerns relating to freedom camping at this location.

Health and Safety

Tangimoana is subject to flood risk.

Access

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	1	1	3

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES	NO

Recommendations – Ellison Reserve Carpark

Allowance for a maximum of two self-contained or non-self-contained vehicles at the hardstand carpark adjacent to Ellison Reserve. As the carpark is small a maximum of two vehicles allows for other users of the facilities to access them.

Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve Carpark



Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve Carpark

Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve is located in Himatangi Beach township. Himatangi is known for its wide sandy beaches, rolling dunes, and relaxed atmosphere, the reserve offers a range of outdoor activities including swimming, fishing, picnicking, and beach walks.

Facilities

Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve includes a play area, picnicking, skateboarding, basketball, tennis courts and a recycling centre.

Public toilets are open 24/7.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No known sites of significance to Māori.

There are no adverse environmental concerns relating to freedom camping at this location.

Health and Safety

Access is not well defined and located in a busy area with a lot of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Access points are in close proximity to an intersection.

Himatangi Beach is susceptible to flooding.

Access

A hardstand carpark area available.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	2	2	5

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES	NO

Recommendations – Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve

Allowance for a maximum of two self-contained or non-self-contained vehicles at the carpark adjacent to Himatangi Beach Reserve on any one night. This is a popular spot, and restricting the number of vehicles reduces the chance of conflict and ensures space for all persons visiting the area.

Kina Street Reserve, Tangimoana Beach



Figure 49 - Location and Perimeter of Kina Street Reserve.

Kina Street Reserve – Tangimoana Beach

Kina Street Reserve is one of the reserves that make up the cluster of the Tangimoana Estuarine Reserves. It is unique from the other Estuarine Reserves in that it has public toilets available and a small flat parking area on the edge of the reserve.

Facilities

Public toilets are open 24/7.

There are no water facilities at this site.

Kina Street Reserve includes native plantings, grassy picnic areas, visitor information, and picnic tables.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

Despite significant loss of natural vegetation, the reserves and the adjacent river loop continue to serve as key habitats for native freshwater fish and bird species.

Health and Safety

Sections of the stopbanks that form part of Horizons' flood protection network for Tangimoana pass through the estuarine reserves; however, these are not located near the area designated for freedom camping.

Tangimoana is subject to flood risk.

Tenting on the road reserve poses a significant health and safety concern due to the absence of physical separation from the road carriageway and the lack of street lighting.

Access

A walkway and cycleway have been developed along the stopbank, connecting West Square and Kina Street Reserve to Ellison Reserve.

Kina Street Reserve features undulating terrain. While there is a driveway into the Reserve, there is no formal parking area, and vehicle manoeuvrability is limited. However, space is available near the roadside on Punga Street.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score for Self-contained and Non-self-contained vehicles	2	1	2	5
Significance Score for Tenting	2	5	2	9

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES	NO

Recommendations – Kina Street Reserve

Camping should be restricted to the flat area on Punga Street adjacent to the public toilets. Due to the limited size of the parking area, this restriction ensures continued access for other users of the Reserve's facilities. Freedom camping should be limited to vehicles rather than tents as there is no physical barrier to separate this area from the carriageway.

London's Ford



Figure 50 - Location and Perimeter of Freedom Camping Restricted Area - London's Ford

London's Ford

This reserve was taken for Ferry Reserve in 1891 and reserved for ferry purposes under gazette 1891 p.1211. As a former river ferry it is part of the story of early European settlement in the Manawatu. Its role today is to provide river access for recreation, picnicking and freedom camping. The reserve has a pump station for the Kiwitea River Water Scheme. The landscape character of the reserve is defined by the grove of mature indigenous trees to the right of the entry driveway, the open grass area with trees for shade and shelter, the river and the backdrop of cliffs. The reserve is a dog exercise area.

Facilities

- Public Toilets that are open 24/7 during the period from Labour Weekend until Easter.
- Pump station

There is no source of freshwater or any cleaning or cooking facilities at this site. However, there is a river that can be used as an untreated water source. The water would need to be boiled if it is to be used as drinking water.

London's Ford has river access for swimming and a flat grassed area for camping.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The Ōroua River wraps around the northern and western boundaries of this site. The proximity of the waterway means there is a risk of human waste entering surface water. The risk of contamination is low during the period from Labour Weekend until Easter when there are public toilets open 24/7. The contamination risk increases outside of this period as the toilets are locked.

It is also noted that there is native bush within the boundaries of this site which is culturally significant for Māori. No taonga or sites of significance have been identified by iwi.

Horizons information suggests that the embankment of this site could potentially be a biodiversity site (ecosystem type: Tōtara, matai, ribbonwood forest). Any clearing of indigenous vegetation may require consent from Horizons. No vegetation clearance is proposed at this time.

Health and Safety

This is an isolated rural reserve. Removal of poplars has increased camping safety. There is a cliff above the swimming area which poses a health and safety risk. However, the risk to the freedom camping area itself is minimal. Some signage could be put up to alert visitors of the risk to swimming near the cliff.

Horizons does not hold any flood modelling for this area to confirm whether or how this property may be affected in a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event. The entire site is affected by Horizons indicative flood information, as illustrated in Figure 51 below. This indicative flood information is based on observations from historic flood events at a scale of 1:50,000 and is therefore not relied on for making land development decisions at a site-specific scale.

Based on historic events, there is a known flood risk at this site. There is no river level monitoring at this site.

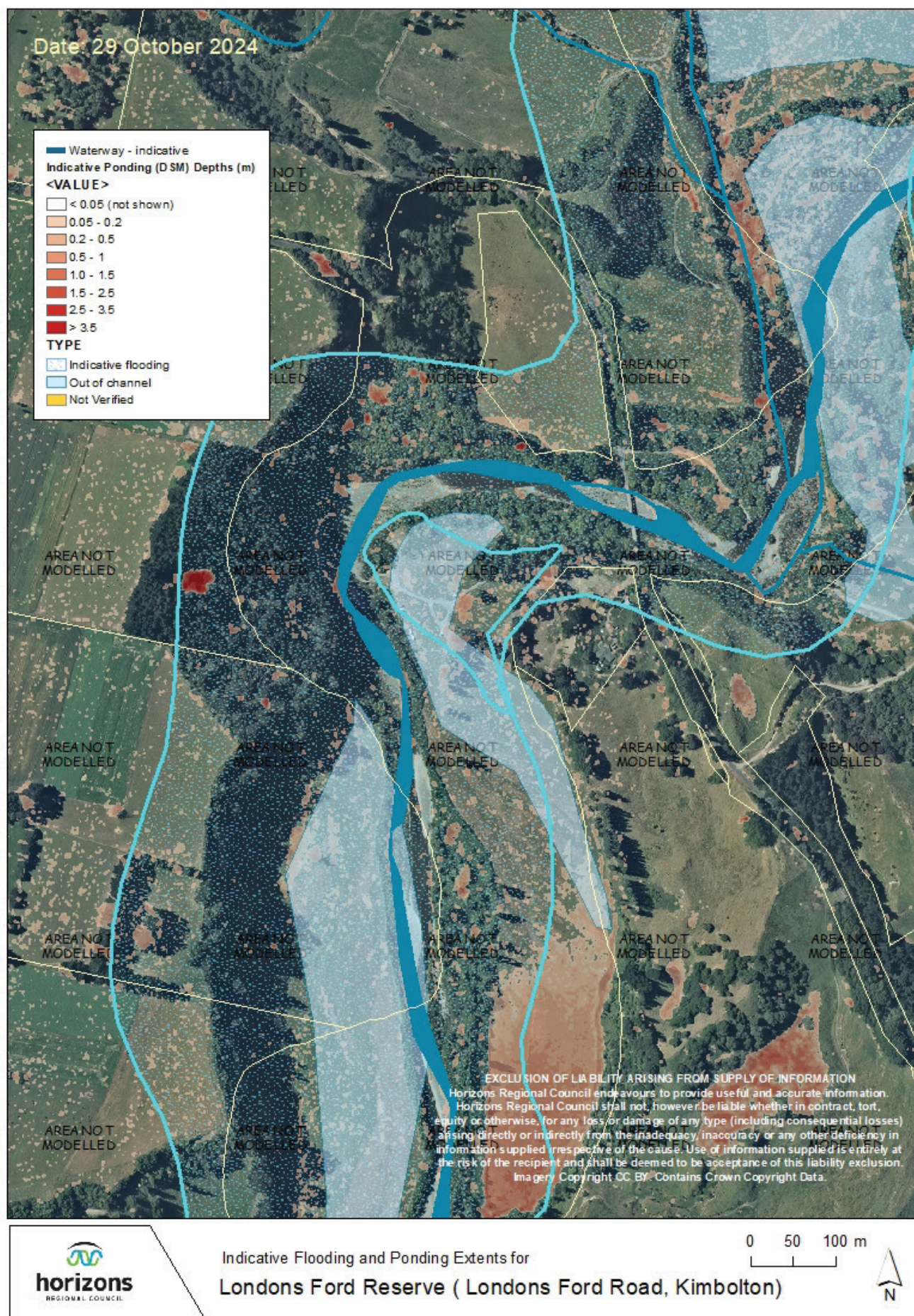


Figure 51 - Horizons indicative flood information and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) information

London's Ford Cont...

Horizons indicative ponding information suggests that there may be areas in this property that are prone to surface ponding during high rainfall events and wet periods of the year.

This section of the Ōroua River is managed by Horizons as part of a flood control and drainage scheme. Certain activities within 10 metres of the bed of the river require resource consent under Horizons One Plan. There are no new structures or activities required to support freedom camping that are considered likely to require consent from Horizons.

Access

Access is via a metal road and onto a grassed camping/picnic area. Vehicle movements in winter/wet ground conditions can cause minor damage to grass. However, the main parking area near the public toilets is on river gravels so less prone to wetness limitations.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3* if non-self-contained freedom camping is restricted to the period when the toilets are open.	3	2	8

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES* within 75m of toilets during the period from Labour Weekend to Easter	YES* within 75m of toilets during the period from Labour Weekend to Easter

Recommendations – London's Ford

That this site allow for self-contained freedom camping at all times. The site is also suitable for non-self-contained vehicles and for tenting. However, this suitability is limited to the period from Labour Weekend until Easter, when the toilets are open to the public.

The provision for freedom camping at London's Ford is consistent with the District Wide Reserves Management Plan (October 2019), which lists freedom camping as one of the current uses of the reserve, and recommends that future development include the general enhancement of camping facilities.

Warning signs for swimmers may be needed near the cliff edge.

Freedom campers, particularly those that are tenting or staying in non-self-contained vehicles, would need to be aware that there is no source of treated drinking water at this site.

Council's Senior Emergency Management Adviser recommends that signage be installed at this reserve alerting visitors to the flood risk and lack of emergency warning system.

Mt Lees

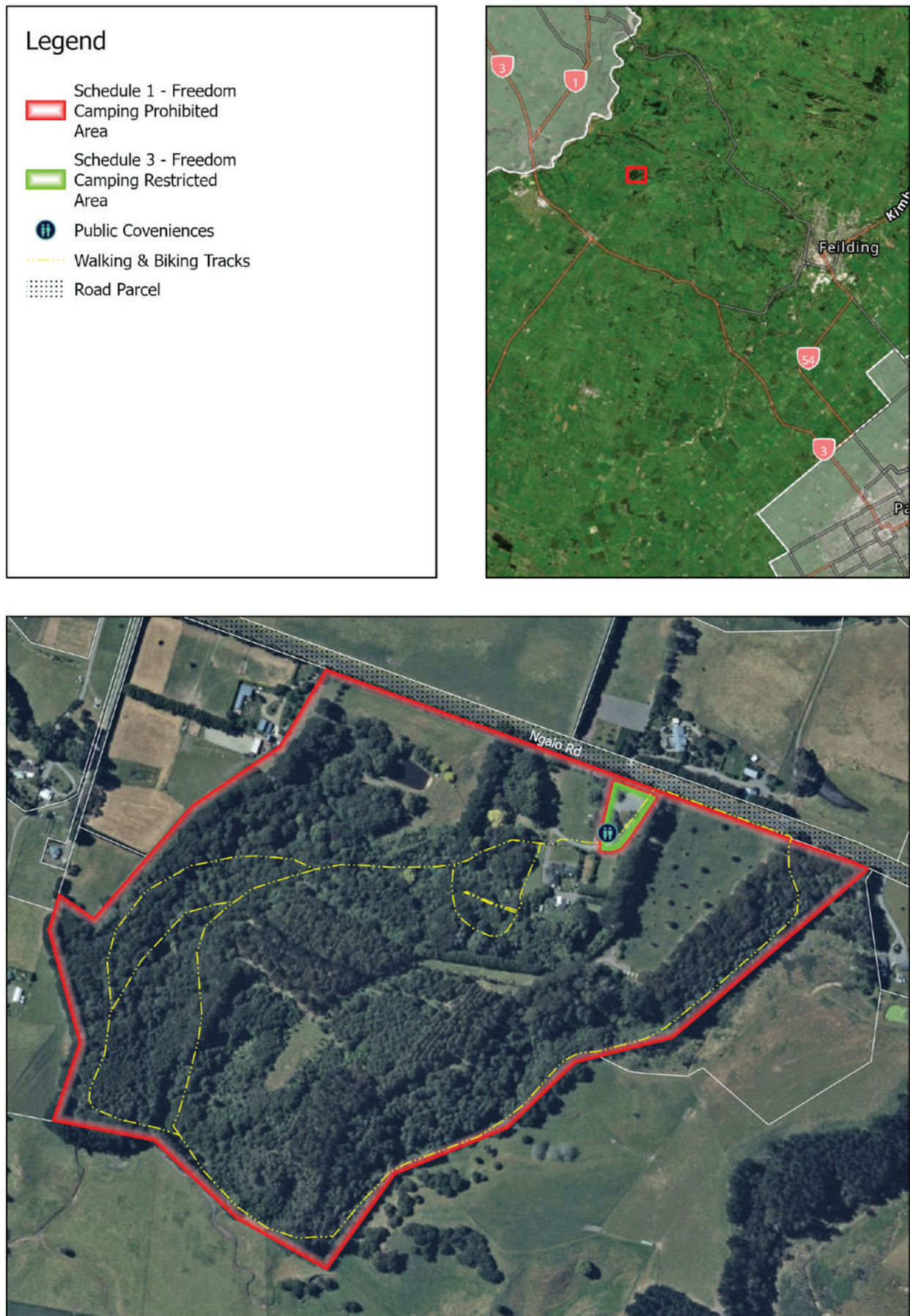


Figure 52 - Location and Perimeter of Mt Lees Reserve

Mt Lees



Mt Lees

The homestead and the gardens are on a flat river terrace with the gully and plantation area below. The reserve is open to the public. Mt Lees is a popular spot with travelers and hosts events.

Mt Lees Reserve is on the Te Araroa trail which encourages a number of hikers/trampers to travel past. Between Mt Lees and Feilding there is nowhere else for them to spend the night. Opening Mt Lees to allow tenting would address the needs of the Te Araroa trail users and significantly increase the use of the Reserve.

At the time of the 2020 Freedom Camping Bylaw review, Mt Lees was subject to a lease agreement which prevented its consideration as a freedom camping site. The recommendation from the 2020 site assessment was that provision for freedom camping be reviewed at the expiry of the lease agreement. The lease terminated on 28 February 2020.

Facilities

Facilities include public toilets and water supply.

The homestead area has parking, picnic areas, children's play area, toilets, tennis court and a summerhouse.

There is a gravel carpark near the main entrance to the Reserve as well as a grassed area adjacent to the public toilet block which may be suitable for freedom camping.

The proximity of the reserve to the Te Araroa trail means that the reserve is a popular rest stop for track users. There is demand for tenting within the reserve, but this is not currently provided for.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

Mt Lees is designated under the Reserves Act 1977 as a Scenic B Reserve. Mt Lees is zoned "Recreational" in the Manawatū District Council's District Plan but there are no listed heritage buildings or notable trees on the site.

No known sites of significance to Māori.

The gully has a large kahikatea which is thought to be more than 1000 years old and a 600 year old puketea. The land with the homestead and the immediate area was gifted to the Crown 1972. The intention was to preserve native and non-native flora and fauna and to extend planting in the long term to cover the whole reserve.

There is a large grassed area between the homestead and Ngaio Road. While this area is free of large specimen trees it is planted with spring bulbs. Any freedom camping in this area would potentially damage these plantings.

There are no specific environmental concerns relating to the gravel carpark and small grassed area identified in Figure 53 as recommended freedom camping sites.

Health and Safety

There are no specific health and safety concerns relating to potential freedom camping sites.

The flood risk has been modelled by Horizons and shows some flooding around waterways/stream channels. The carpark and adjacent grass area is not known to be at risk of flooding.

Access

There is formed access to the site and a hard stand area. There is no public vehicle access beyond the entrance carpark. There is space in the carpark to provide for some freedom camping. However, as this is the only public carpark serving the reserve, if too many freedom camping vehicles are parked at one time this could restrict access for other users.

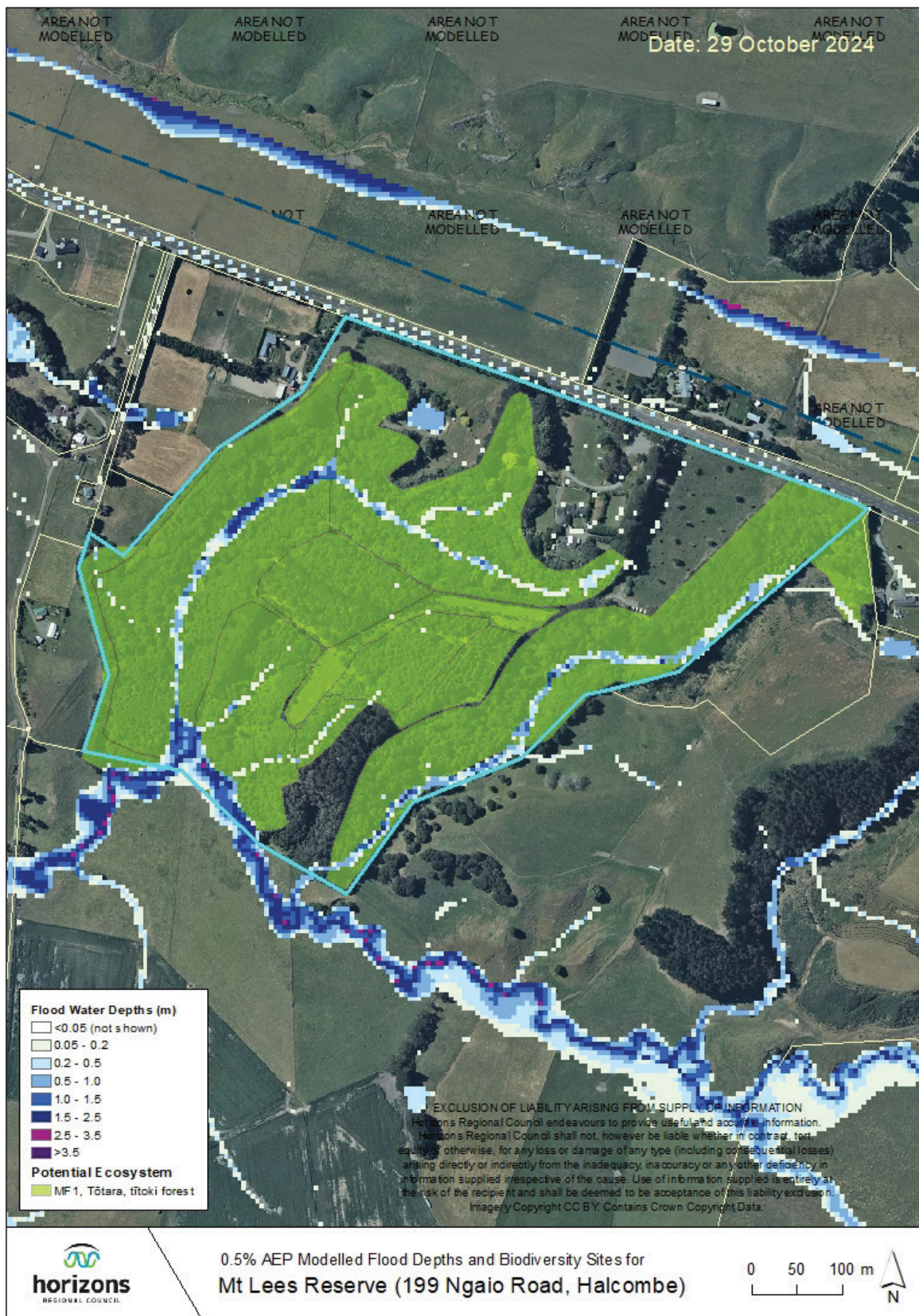


Figure 54 - Horizons modelled flood information and biodiversity information for Mt Lees Reserve

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	2	2	7

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES* Within main carpark area only	YES* Within main carpark area only	YES* within small grassed area adjacent to the toilet block only

Recommendations – Mt Lees

That the Bylaw provide for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles to freedom camp within the hardstand carpark area at the main entrance to the Mt Lees. The number of vehicles freedom camping in the reserve should be limited to three at any one time, to ensure access is not compromised for other visitors to the reserve.

It is recommended that freedom camping in tents or other temporary structures be provided for in the small grass area adjacent to the toilet block (refer to Figure 53). Vehicles should not be allowed to access this area as this would damage the grass.

Old School Site/ Pohangina School Reserve – Finnis Rd, Pohangina

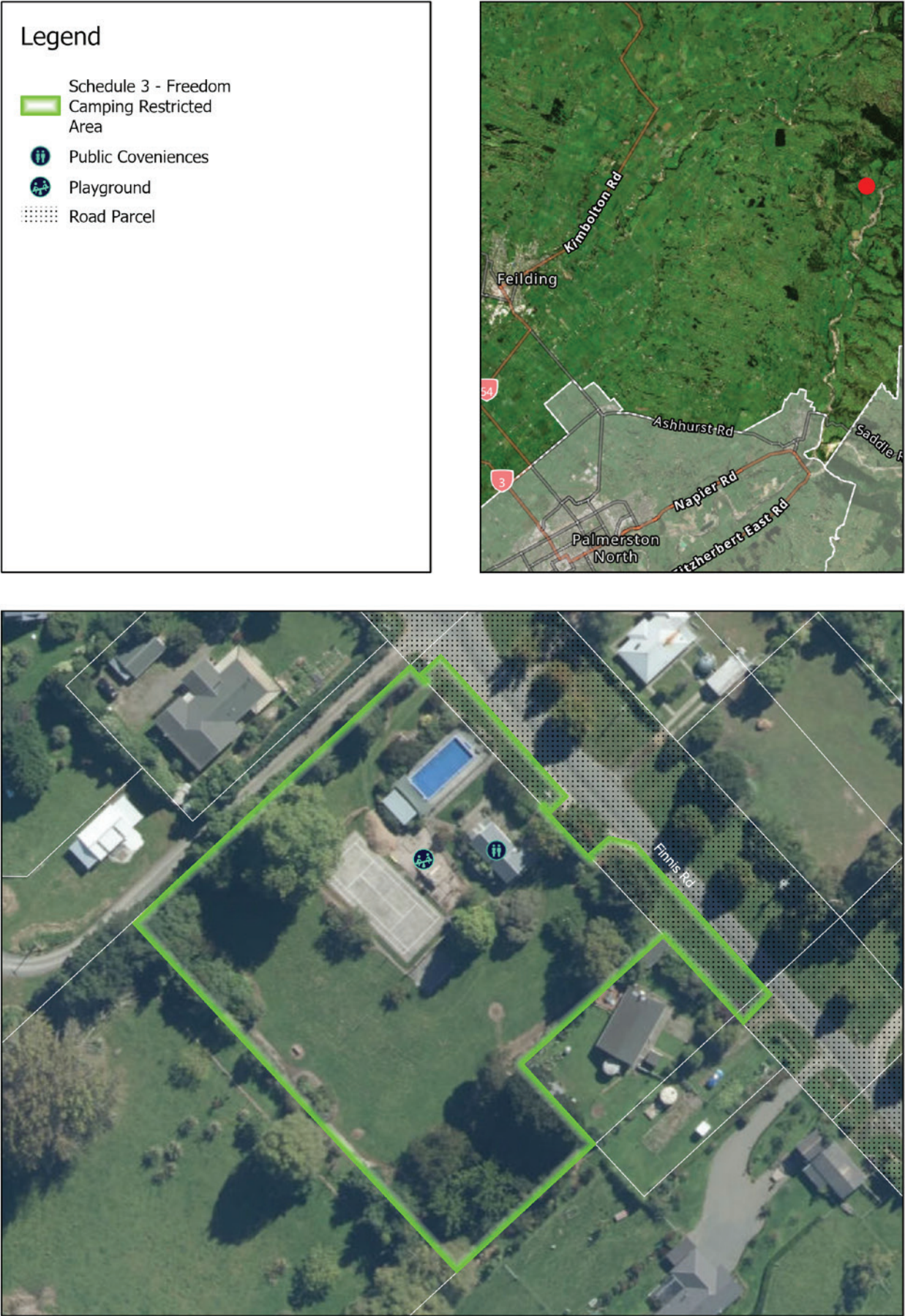


Figure 55 - Location and perimeter of Pohangina Old School Reserve

Old School Site/ Pohangina School Reserve

– Finnis Rd, Pohangina

The old school site has public toilets and swimming pool which requires a key. Parking is available on the roadside and is utilised by visitors to the swimming pool in summer.

The former Pohangina School closed in 1972. It has been used as a community facility for community activities and for recreation over summer.

The reserve is a dog exercise area.

The 2014 Freedom Camping Bylaw provided self-contained freedom camping at this site for up to three consecutive nights. The classification of this site was changed to prohibited in the 2020 Freedom Camping Bylaw review due to drainage and access concerns.

Facilities

The schoolroom has a deck, the swimming pool is used in summer and the playground has a range of play equipment. No potable water is available at this site.

Former school facilities include sheds, public toilets and tennis court. The school and its former playing field is available for hire for events and groups outside of the community and is used for a variety of events including car and caravan rallies.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

There is a plaque on the swimming pool which is an ANZAC memorial. The swimming pool area plays a significant role in ANZAC Day celebrations and is highly significant to the Pohangina Community. Use of the site for freedom camping would not detract from its cultural significance as an ANZAC memorial.

This site is not known to be significant to Māori.

This site is not significant in terms of its biodiversity values. This site is not immediately adjacent to any waterways or areas of significant flora and fauna.

Health and Safety

No significant health and safety concerns. The pool is fenced as per the Building Code.

Horizons does not hold any modelled, observed or indicative flood information or any other flood records for this property. However, regional scale information from Landcare Research suggests that this property has poor draining soil.

Access

Access to the site is via a gate at the northeastern corner. There is no formed driveway or off-road carpark. Mature trees on the site limit access for large vehicles. Parking is currently on the road verge, along the front boundary of the site. The site has poor drainage which means that vehicles accessing the site during wet conditions could damage the grass.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	1	4	7

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES	YES

Recommendations – Old School Site, Finnis Road, Pohangina

It is recommended that this site be included in Schedule 3 of the bylaw - being suitable for all forms of freedom camping, subject to restrictions.

While it is recommended that the site be available for freedom camping at all times, a sign should be erected on the accessway gate that notes that vehicular access during wet conditions is at their own risk.

Putai Ngahere Reserve – Vinegar Hill*



Figure 56 - Location and Perimeter of Putai Ngahere Reserve - Vinegar Hill, including Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only and Freedom Camping Restricted Area

* this only applies during the period from 10 February to 14 December

Putai Ngahere Reserve – Vinegar Hill

The reserve is located on the banks of the Rangitikei river and offers a range of outdoor activities such as swimming and fishing. It is a popular spot especially between 15 December and 9 February, when it operates as a paid camp ground rather than a Freedom Camping site, and sees a large number of campers. Camping fees are charged over this period and the reserve is monitored for security. The reserve has three main camping areas but users are able to set up wherever they choose – popular spots over the summer are in shaded areas.

This reserve is a dog exercise area between Easter and Labour Weekend and a dog on leash area outside of this time.

Facilities

- Public toilets are at the northern and southern ends of the freedom camping area. The northern toilet block is open and serviced year round. These have a larger capacity but are not set up to be used as a dump station. The toilets at the southern end of the reserve are open during the period from Labour Weekend and Easter (i.e. over summer).
- Showers (cold water only)
- Water supply
- Rubbish bins
- Flood warning alarm

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

This site borders the Rangitikei River on the southern, western and northern boundaries. The proximity to the Rangitikei River means there is potential for human waste to enter surface water. However, this risk is reduced by public toilets that are located at the southern and northern ends of the site. However, the toilets at the southern end are locked during winter.

There are rubbish bins at the site that helps to reduce the risk of fly tipping and litter being disposed of in the bush area or waterway.

The entrance driveway runs through a forest which features redwood, totara and other indigenous forest species to open grassed areas and the river with a backdrop of high cliffs rising from the river. The bush area on this site is ecologically and culturally significant.

The Rangitikei River at this location has specific values of “water supply” and “trout fishery” under Schedule B of Horizons One Plan. Consent may be required for certain activities within 10 metres of the bed of the River.

This site is also recognised as a biodiversity site in Horizons One Plan (ecosystem type: Tawa, Tītoki, podocarp forest). Consent may be required from Horizons for any vegetation clearance at this site. No vegetation clearance is proposed to support freedom camping at this site.

Health and Safety

There are health and safety risks associated with water and river access. Over the Christmas holiday period there is security at the reserve to prevent and deal with anti-social behavior that has historically been an issue at the Reserve.

The reserve has been subject to inundation during high flow flood events. The reserve was damaged during the February 2004 floods. A warning alarm has been installed which mitigates some of this risk (approx. 3 hour warning for users) by giving time for evacuation to higher ground.

Horizons does not hold any flood modelling for this area to give an indication of how the reserve may be affected in a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event. However, this site is partially affected by Horizons indicative flood information, and was flooded in the February 2004 flood event, as shown in Figure 57 below:

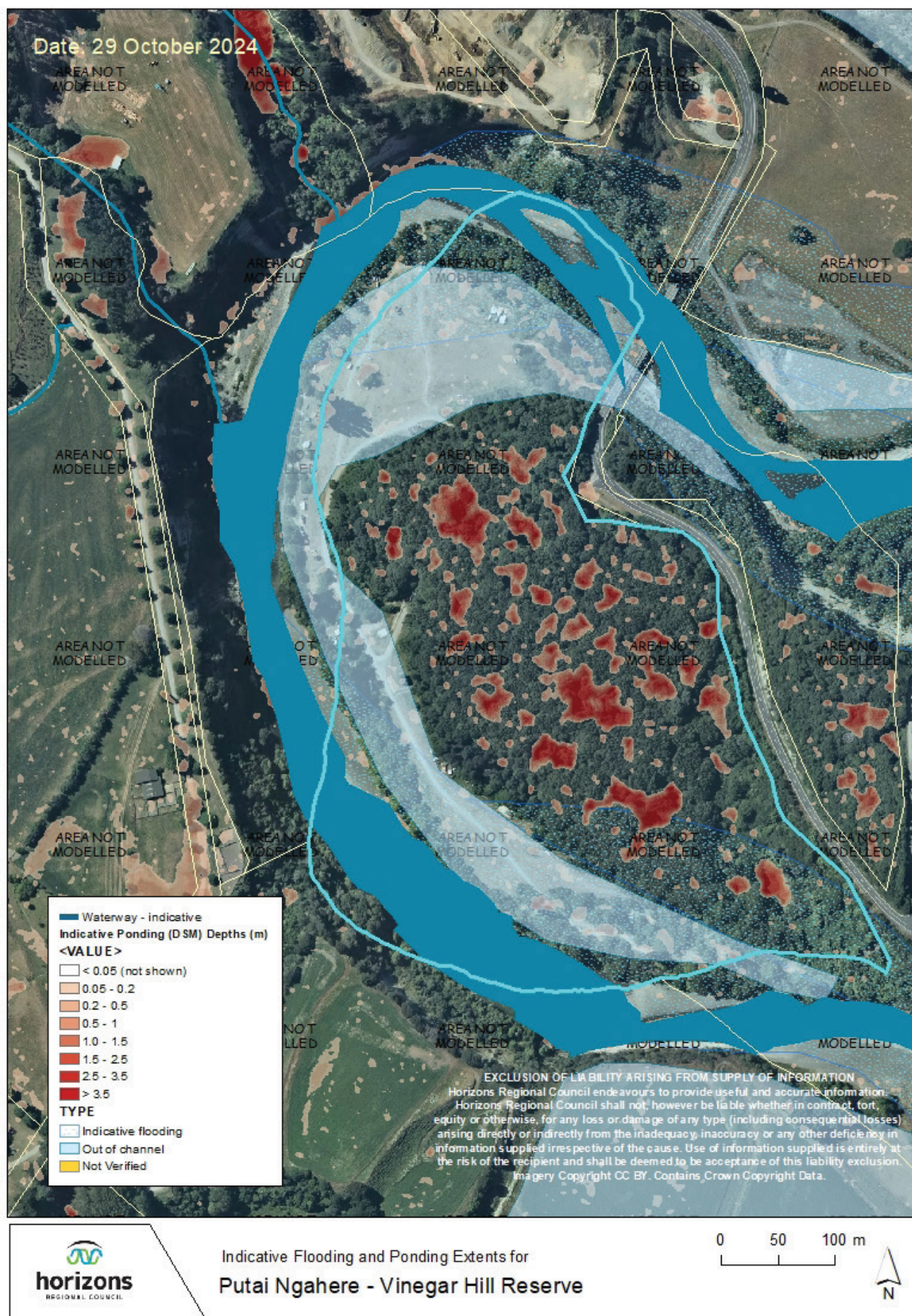


Figure 57 - Horizons indicative flooding, observed flood extent from the February 2004 flood and digital elevation model (DEM) information for Putai Ngahere Reserve (Vinegar Hill)

MDC flood imagery from the June 2018 event shows the northern camp as being affected. As noted above, a flood warning alarm has been installed at the reserve that gives approximately 3 hours warning of a potential flood. This is considered to be sufficient time to ensure the safe evacuation of the reserve to higher ground before the site is flooded.

Horizons indicative ponding information suggests that there may be areas in this property that are prone to surface ponding during high rainfall events and wet periods of the year (refer to orange shading in Figure 57 above). The camping areas are largely unaffected by Horizons indicative ponding information.

Putai Ngahere Reserve – Vinegar Hill Cont...

Access

A locked gate controls public access to the southern end of the Reserve over winter.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3* (at the northern end where toilets are available 24/7)	3	2	8

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES* subject to restrictions	YES* Subject to restrictions

Recommendations – Vinegar Hill

It is recommended that freedom camping is prohibited for the period 15 December to 9 February as this is when the park operates as a paid camp ground.

Freedom camping should not be provided for in the southern half of the reserve as the locked gate prevents access to this area outside of the period of time when the reserve is operating as a paid campground.

As the toilet block at the northern end of the reserve is open all year round, freedom camping and non-self-contained freedom camping should be provided for any time the reserve is not otherwise operating as a paid campground (i.e. from 10 February to 14 December). However, non-self-contained freedom camping should be limited to an area that is within a 75m radius of the northern public toilet block. In addition, given the biodiversity values of the reserve, freedom camping should only be allowed in the grassed area.

Raumai Reserve



Figure 58 - Location and Perimeter of Freedom Camping Restricted Area - Raumai Reserve

Raumai Reserve

The role of this reserve under the District Wide Reserve Management Plan (October 2019) is river access for swimming and fishing with a grassed area for picnicking. A toilet supports use, and vegetation has been cleared to create a view shaft to the river.

There is access to the Pohangina River and it is a very popular spot for swimming during the summer.

This reserve is a dog exercise area.

Facilities

- Public toilets (to the south of the freedom camping area)
- Rubbish bin

There is a tap available from a neighbouring farmer than can be used for water supply. However, the water is not treated. The water should therefore be boiled before being used as drinking water.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

Raumai Reserve is adjacent to the Pohangina River. The provision of public toilets at the site reduces the risk of human waste entering the waterway.

The presence of rubbish bins helps to reduce the risk of litter and fly tipping at the site.

Vegetation includes indigenous shrub and ground cover species at the reserve entrance, eucalypts, pines, silver poplar and planting to stabilise the northern riverbank cliff face.

Horizons Regional Council has identified that this property contains a potential biodiversity site (refer to Figure 59). No vegetation clearance is proposed at this time.

The Pohangina River at this location has specific values of Flood Control and Trout Fishery under Schedule B of Horizons One Plan. Resource consent may be required from Horizons for certain activities within 10 metres of the bed of the river.

Health and Safety

This is a remote rural reserve, although visibility from the roadside increases safety. There are risks associated with swimming in the river, but these are not directly related to freedom camping.

Water should be boiled before being consumed.

Horizons holds modelled flood information for this site for a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event. Flood water depth information is shown in Figure 59 below:



Figure 59 - Horizons Potential Biodiversity Site for Raumai Reserve

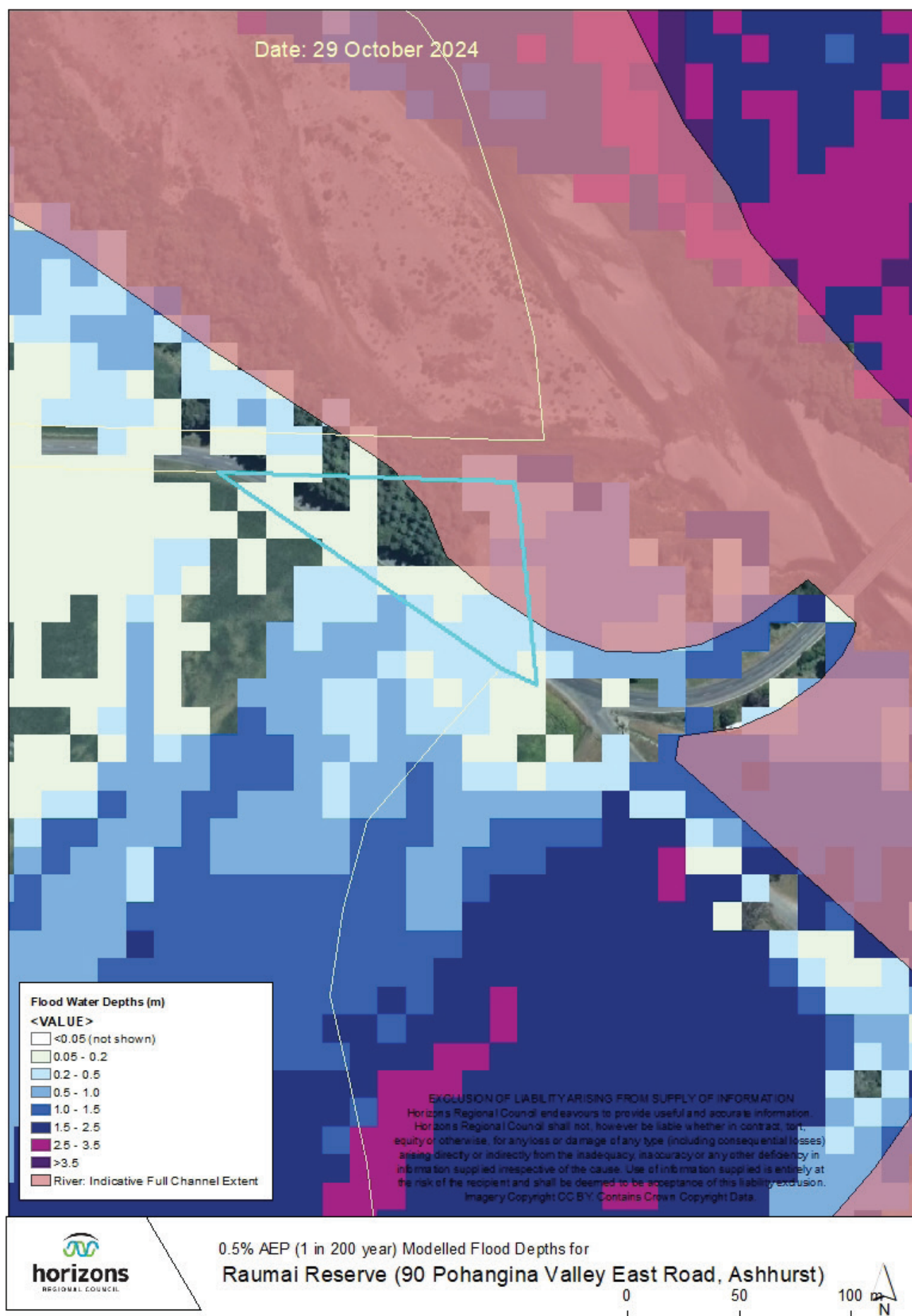


Figure 60 - Horizons modelled flood information for Raumi Reserve

This modelled flood information suggests that the freedom camping area at Raumai Reserve could be inundated by flood water to depths between 0.5m and 2.0m during a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event. Road access to the site would also be compromised during a flood event.

There is river level monitoring at Piripiri and at Mais Reach which are upstream on the Pohangia River. There is a trigger level on Mais Reach that is used for determining when Council may close Pohangina Valley East Road at Raumai Bridge. If Council is closing Pohangina Valley East Road, the evacuation of freedom campers at Raumai Reserve will form part of these emergency procedures.

Access

Access is via a sealed road and onto a gravel and grassed camping/picnic area. Vehicle movements in winter/wet ground conditions can cause minor damage to grass.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	2	3* check flood risk	3	8

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES	YES

Recommendations – Raumai Reserve

It is recommended that this site be added to the list of permitted freedom camping sites. Council's Senior Emergency Management Adviser recommends that signage be installed at the reserve alerting freedom campers to the flood risk and a recommendation that visitors sign up for Horizons river alert system for the Pohangina River at Piripiri.

A boil water notice should be erected at the tap to advise freedom campers that the water is not treated.

Sanson Domain



Figure 61 - Location and Perimeter of Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only

Sanson Domain

This area was formerly a rugby field with a historic grandstand. The Manawātū Blokart Club has a lease on the Domain and has developed it for blokarts with an asphalted track and carparking. National and international blokart events are held in the Domain. The Domain is also a dog exercise area, except that when organised events are on dogs must be on a leash. A walkway along SH1 skirts the low-lying field and undeveloped part of the reserve, and links the Domain with Sanson, the school, hall and swimming pool.

Facilities

There is a formed carpark and public toilet facilities that are accessible at all times.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No known sites of significance to Māori.

No special environmental concerns or areas of significance.

Health and Safety

Access to the site by large caravans and motorhomes poses a safety risk due to the high speed zone on the State Highway.

Horizons has completed flood modelling for a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event at this location. The flood modelling for this catchment includes the Makowhai Stream and its tributaries. A copy of the modelled flood water depths for a 0.5% AEP flood are shown in Figure 62 on the next page.

Horizons has advised that this is a 'runoff' model which will show where water flows and gathers in a modelled 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event. This suggests shallow flooding of up to 0.5m depth over part of the parking area. Since the flood modelling was prepared, new stormwater drainage has been installed, which is likely to have mitigated some of the ponding at this site.

Access

This site is accessed off State Highway 1 within a 100km per hour speed zone.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	2	2	5

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES	NO

Recommendations – Sanson Domain

Self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles should be limited to the hardstand carpark that is accessible from the road. Given the potential for conflict with other users and given the health and safety risk for vehicles accessing the site from the State Highway, it is recommended that the number of vehicles be restricted to a maximum of 3 at any one time.



Figure 62 - Horizons 0.5% AEP modelled flood information for the Sanson Domain

Timona Park



Figure 63 - Location and Perimeter of Timona Park including Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only

Timona Park

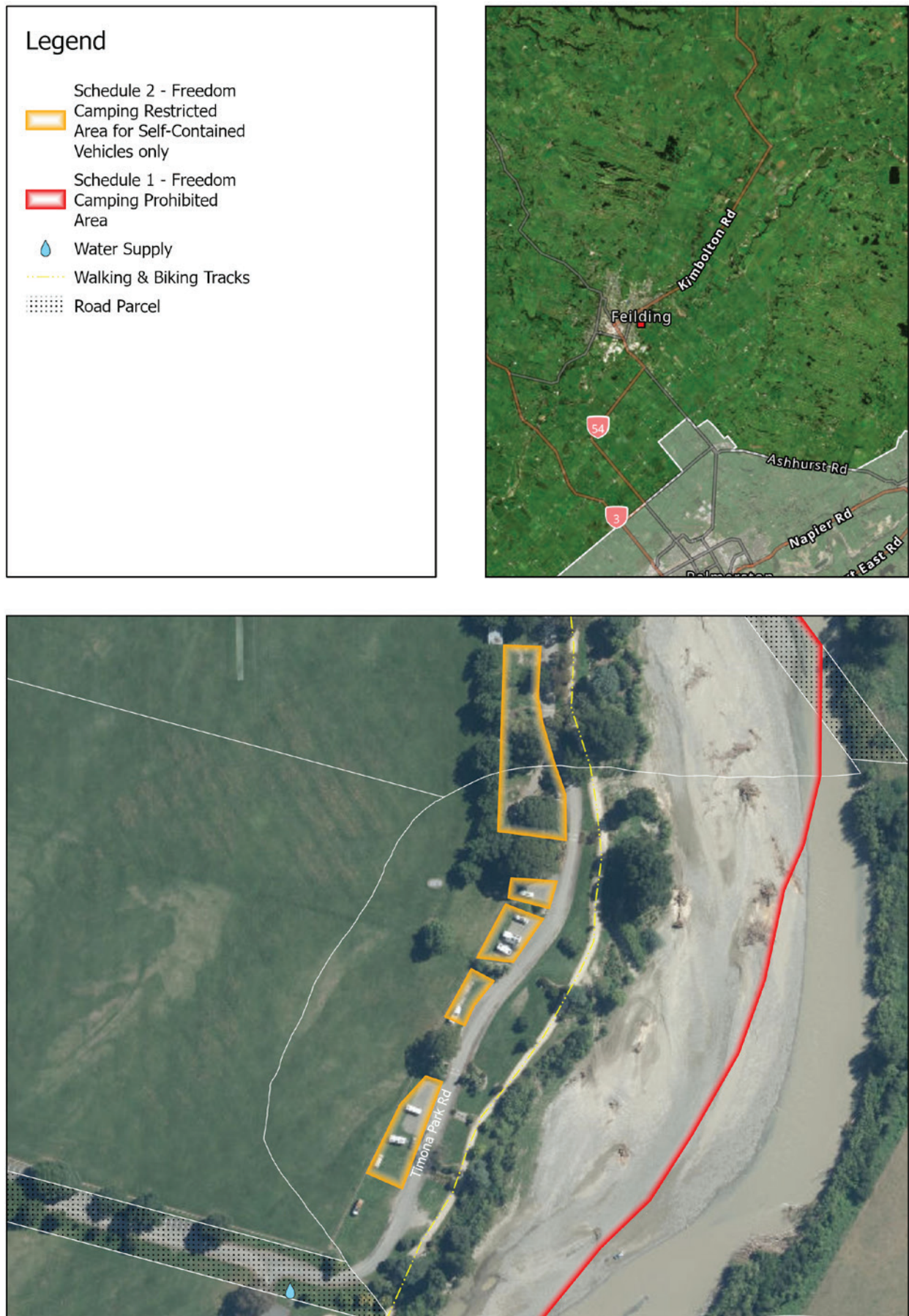


Figure 64 - Location and Perimeter of Timona Park including Freedom Camping Restricted Area for Self-Contained Vehicles Only

Timona Park

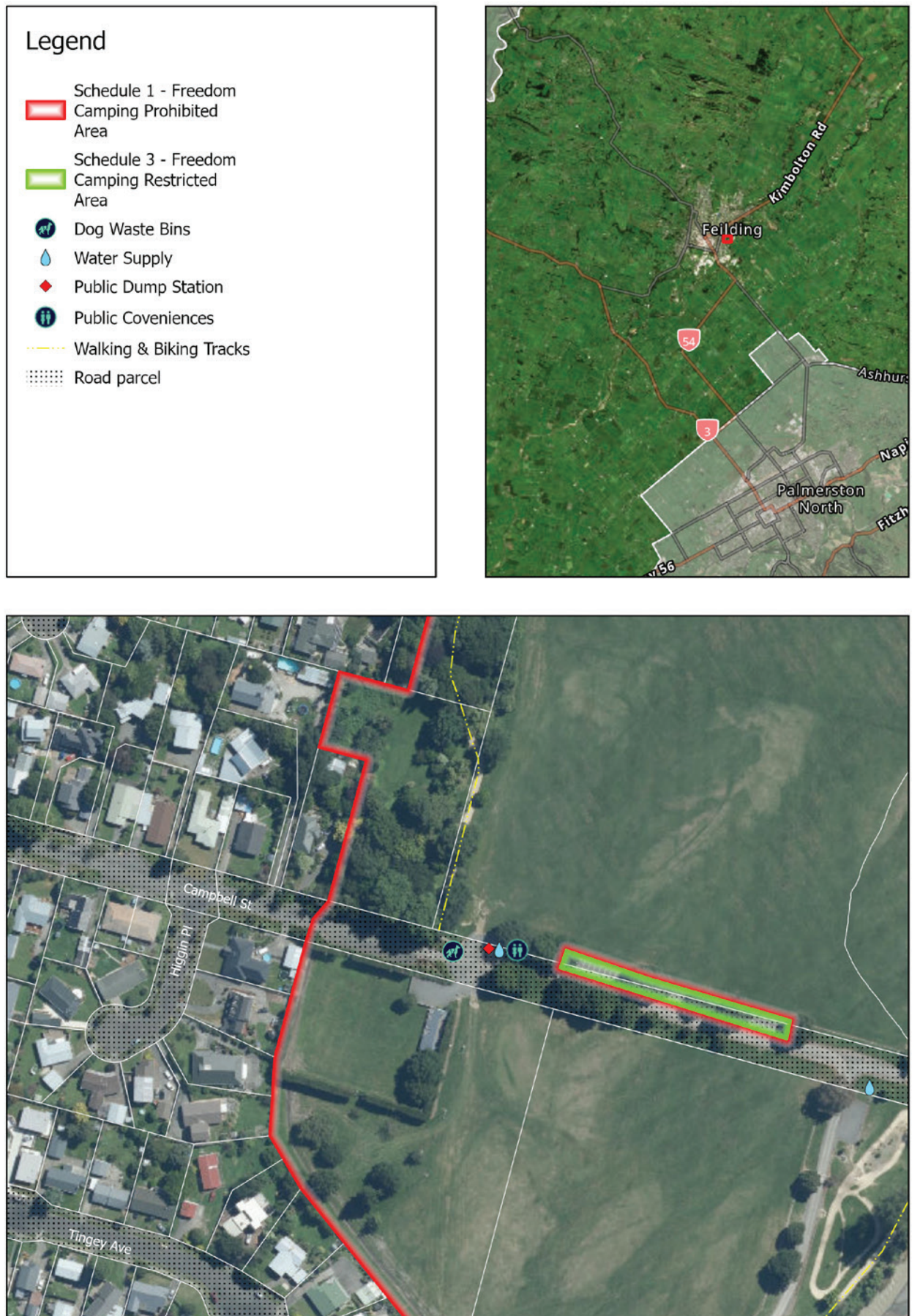


Figure 65 - Timona Park site only

Timona Park

Of all of the Districts Sportsgrounds, Timona Park is the largest. Bounding with Johnston Park to the South and the Ōroua River to the East. Timona park is home to a number of clubs including the Feilding Pony Club, Feilding Dog Training Club, Feilding United Association Football Club, Feilding Cricket Club and Feilding Athletics Club. A pump track and recently updated children's playground make this park popular with families.

Facilities

Council owns the Clubrooms for both the Feilding Pony Club and the Football Club. There is a small toilet block and changing rooms provided by Council on the site, however these are not immediate to the clubroom areas.

Facilities are as follows:

- Public toilets near the Campbell Street entrance that are open 24/7.
- New toilet block at Simon Street Playground that are open from 6am to 10pm daily.
- Rubbish bins provided throughout the park and in close proximity to where Freedom campers park.
- Free-to-use barbeques along the river side of the park
- BMX pump track and upgraded playground
- Significant parking is available for freedom campers throughout the park along both sides of the internal road
- There are drinking fountains by the playground and BMX track
- A dump station and tap have been installed near the Campbell Street toilets, with funding from the NZ Motor Caravan Association.

There are currently no showers or facilities for washing provided.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

The Ōroua River borders the whole site. The primary concern relates to the potential for human waste to enter the River. However, the provision of public toilets reduces this risk. There is potential for dumping of waste and litter at the site as Council is not able to monitor the site to avoid this risk. Council is not aware of any flora or fauna of significance at this site.

Health and Safety

During the holiday season there is a significant increase in users of the park, including freedom campers. There are a lot of children on bikes/walking around and this could increase the risk when large self-contained vehicles are maneuvering. There are no physical barriers from parking areas to the ring road which is frequently used by foot traffic. Existing vegetation around parking bays can hinder sight lines.

A dump station provides for the safe disposal of caravan waste.

Horizons has modelled the flood risk for this site. The map below shows modelled flood water depths in a 0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability (1 in 200 year) flood event. This modelling shows that the freedom camping areas are within the full Ōroua River Channel. Horizons discourages new activities, habitable buildings (including structures) or extensions in the full river channel extent. This modelling suggests flooding will be generally less than 0.5m on the road entrance to the freedom camping area, but may exceed 0.5m in some places.

The Ōroua Flood Action Plan includes monitored river levels at Almadale that can be used as a trigger for the evacuation of Timona Park. The Manawātū District Council's Senior Emergency Management Adviser is satisfied that Horizons current flood monitoring system will give Council sufficient warning time to complete the evacuation of Timona Park, to ensure the risk to freedom campers can be appropriately managed.

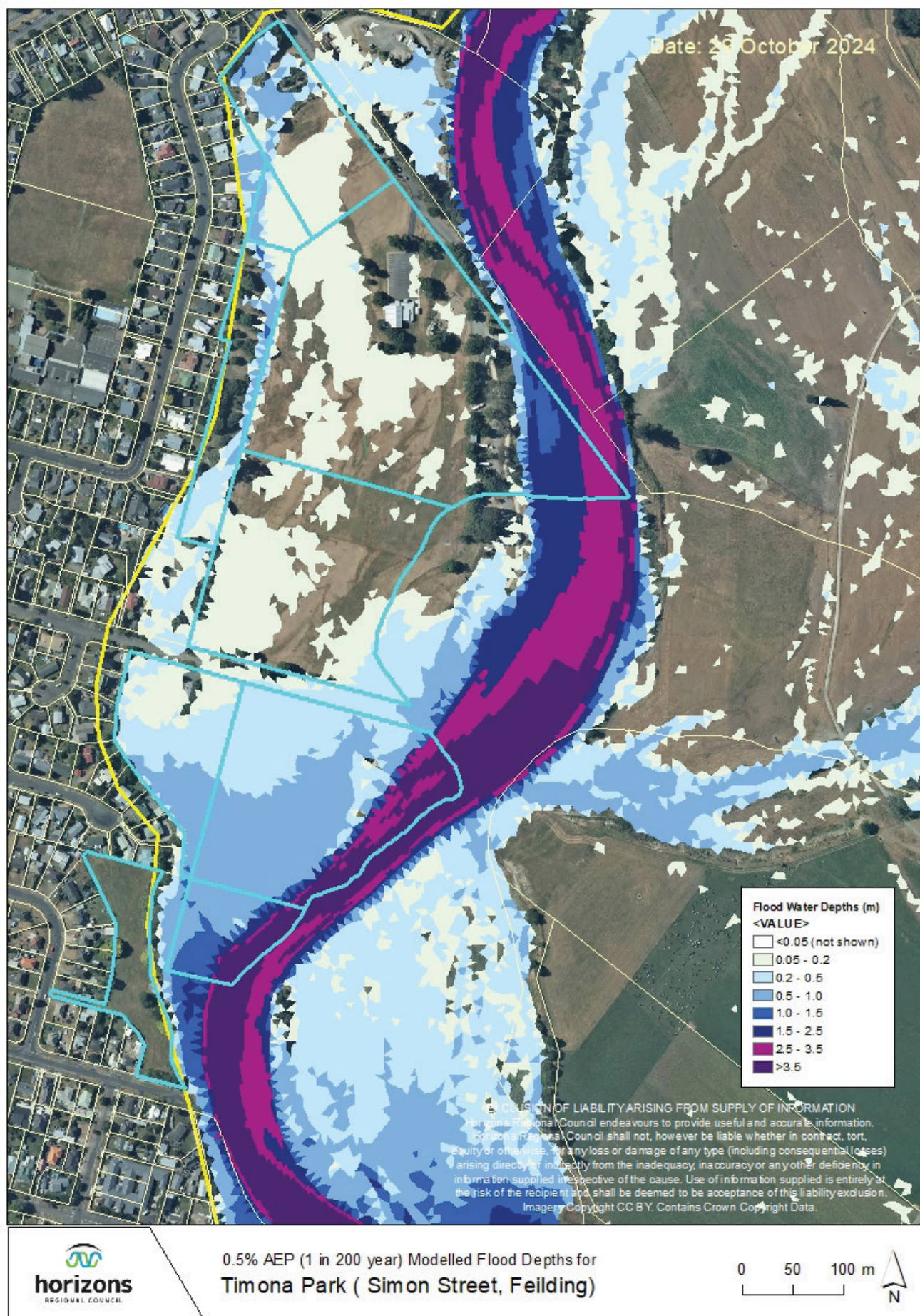


Figure 66 - 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) modelled flood risk for Timona Park

Timona Park Cont...

This section of the Ōroua River is managed by Horizons as part of a flood control and drainage scheme. Certain activities within 10 metres of the bed of the river require resource consent under Horizons One Plan. There are no new structures or activities required to support freedom camping that are considered likely to require consent from Horizons.

Access

Freedom campers are currently parking on the grass bays around the fringe of the parks internal road. During winter this causes some minor damage to the turf which requires remedial work.

This site is very popular for a range of uses, including sport. If freedom camping is provided for in carparks adjacent to the main playing fields, this has the potential to impact on access for other park users.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	3	3	1	7

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES	NO

Recommendations – Timona Park

Given the historical and cultural importance of this park and its popularity for a range of uses, including sport, it is recommended that this park only allow freedom camping in self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, within designated areas of the park. Self-contained freedom camping should be restricted to the hardstand areas identified by orange shading to the north of Campbell Street on Figure 63, so as to minimise impacts on access for other park users.

Non-self-contained freedom camping vehicles should be restricted to the carpark adjacent to the toilet block at the Campbell Street entrance to the park, identified by the green outline in Figure 65.

While the flood information from Horizons confirms that this site is at risk of flooding in a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event, emergency procedures are in place and Council's Senior Emergency Management Adviser is satisfied that this risk can be appropriately managed.



Figure 67 - Modelled flood information for Victoria Park

Victoria Park



Figure 68 - Location and Perimeter of Freedom Camping Restricted Area - Victoria Park

Victoria Park

There are three senior rugby/touch fields and softball sand diamond at Victoria Park. The park is heavily utilised in winter as the home of Feilding Saturday morning rugby, with the site being used for training by clubs under the Council owned lights.

Throughout the summer period the park has a mixed use from local softball clubs ranging in skill level from Junior school competitions to Senior men's competition leagues, as well as local touch leagues.

Facilities

The park has a high level of built facilities, however, not all of these facilities are open to the general public.

A large concrete block change facility with showers (for private use) was constructed in the early 2000's with an additional public toilet facility being constructed in 2015. The old toilet block was converted to storage for rugby at this time.

The Feilding Squash Club is also located on the park. Council owns the building with the club responsible for general and minor maintenance.

Victoria Park is currently used by freedom campers, both self-contained and non-self-contained. There are water facilities at the carpark.

Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance)

No known sites of significance to Māori.

There are no adverse environmental concerns relating to freedom camping at this location.

Health and Safety

There are no significant health and safety concerns relating to freedom camping at this location. There are no significant site concerns. Horizons modelled flood information for a 0.5% AEP (1 in 200 year) flood event shows some flooding in the stormwater channels along the periphery of the park, but no flooding within the carpark area (refer to Figure 67).

Access

Vehicle access is from West Street and there is a large sealed parking area with marked parking spaces for vehicles. The entrance is tight for large vehicles.

Significance Score

Legislative purpose	Area significance	Health and Safety	Access	Total
Significance Score	1	2	1* (not suitable for large campers)	4

Assessment of Freedom Camping Category Types		
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
YES	YES	NO

Victoria Park Cont...

Recommendations – Victoria Park

Victoria Park is and the primary training ground for the Manawātū District and hosts a number of regular sport events eg rugby, softball. These events require the majority of parks. To minimise the potential for conflict, it is recommended that freedom campers be required to depart from the site by 7:30am during winter (Terms 2 and 3 of the school year).

In addition, the Bylaw should give Council Enforcement Officers the authority to request that freedom campers move on from the site in the event of another event or activity taking place on the fields.

Tenting is not appropriate on the site as the site is asphalt carpark and the playing fields are used for sports and events. This site may not be suitable for large campervans as the entrance is tight.