

7.12 Geological items

The islands abound with a diverse range of geological items that contribute to its distinctive qualities. The Plan provides for the protection of geological items which are significant for their scientific, integrity, educational and historic values. Significant examples require identification and scheduling.

7.12.1 Issues

1. How to recognise and protect the unique nature of the islands' geological resources.
2. How to protect geological items which may be dynamic, extremely fragile or difficult to identify. Development of these items may result in their partial or total destruction, causing them to be lost forever.

7.12.2 Objective

To identify, recognise and protect valuable geological items which contribute to the islands' heritage.

Policies

1. By assessing, evaluating and scheduling geological items significant for their scientific and geological context, integrity, educational and historical association value.
2. By ensuring that land use and development does not result in the damage or destruction of scheduled geological sites and their scheduled site surrounds.
3. By avoiding a reduction in the heritage values associated with scheduled geological sites and their scheduled site surrounds.

7.12.3 Criteria for **evaluating-scheduling** geological items

To determine whether a geological item is worthy of protection in the Plan, potential items have been evaluated against of the criteria listed in **appendix 4 - Criteria for scheduling heritage items**.

The evaluation criteria are also used to determine whether a geological item is a category A, or category B.

7.12.3.1 Category A

These are extremely valuable geological items that when assessed against the relevant criteria were considered to have heritage significance beyond their immediate surrounds. Their loss or degradation would be unacceptable in terms of achieving the purpose of the RMA. These geological items therefore need to be preserved.

7.12.3.2 Category B

Although these geological items are considered to be less significant than category A items, it is still important for the features to be protected from inappropriate use and development, having regard to the effect of the proposal on the heritage values of the scheduled item, and the applicants objectives and reasons for the proposal. Therefore, the partial loss or modification of category B items s may be acceptable where there is no alternative and everything has been done to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects.

7.12.4 Rules for geological items

The rules for geological items with a category A rating are outlined in table 7.3. The rules for category B items are in table 7.4.

To use these tables it is necessary to know the feature type for the item, as well as whether it is category A or B. That information can be found in **appendix 1e - Schedule of geological items - inner islands** and **appendix 2e - Schedule of geological items - outer islands**.

Feature type

In the following tables, the columns A-G indicate the following feature types:

A = Large landforms

Landforms that are sufficiently large and robust to withstand small scale earthworks or

constructions without significant impact, eg scoria cone

B = Smaller more fragile landforms

Small landforms or other features that could be damaged or destroyed by relatively small scale earthworks or constructions, eg rock stack, hornito

C = Dynamic landforms and features

Landforms or features that rely on the continuation of natural physical processes beyond the feature for their continued existence, eg shell spit, sand dune, spring

D = Exposures of geological material

Natural or human-made exposures that are sufficiently large and robust that small scale earthworks or rock sampling will have no significant impact, eg South Rotoroa boxwork weathering

E = Fragile exposures of geological material

Small natural or human-made exposures or high value portions of exposures that could be damaged or destroyed by small scale earthworks, sampling or construction, eg Flax Point baked sediment

F = Caves

Caves (including entrances and host land within a 5m radius of the cave in all directions) may, depending upon their depth underground, be susceptible to damage from significant earthworks or constructions above them, or from changes in their catchments, eg lava caves, sea caves.

G = Boulder fields

Boulder fields, eg Stony Batter

Table 7.3: Activity table for category A scheduled geological items

Activities	Feature type						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1. Erecting buildings or structures, or planting vegetation that will obstruct views of scheduled features within a scheduled site surround	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD
2. Earthworks greater than 2m ³	D	Pr	D	D	D	D	PfNC
3. Earthworks less than or equal to 2m ³	P	D	D	D	D	RD	D
4. External alterations or additions to existing buildings and the construction and/or relocation of new buildings	D	Pr	D	D	Pr	D	PfNC
5. Roothing construction	D	Pr	D	D	Pr	RD	D
6. Footpath construction	RD	D	D	D	D	RD	D
7. Construction of fences or walls other than post and wire fences	RD	Pr	D	D	PfNC	RD	NC
8. Construction of post and wire fences	RD	RD	RD	RD	D	RD	P
9. Construction, replacement or upgrading of utility services by trenching	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
10. Construction, replacement or upgrading utility services by underground thrusting or directional drilling	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD
11. Planting any vegetation on the scheduled feature	D	D	PfNC	RD	PfNC	RD	NC
12. Geological sampling to a maximum of 1000cc	P	RD	P	P	RD	RD	RD
13. Grazing by heavy animals - ie cattle, horses, deer (excluding cave interiors)	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	P	P
14. Grazing by light animals - ie sheep (excluding cave interiors)	P	RD	RD	P	RD	P	P
15. Works or activities within the scheduled site surrounds	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD

Legend:

P = Permitted
RD = Restricted discretionary
D = Discretionary
NC = Non-complying
Pr = Prohibited

Note:

See clause 7.6 for notification requirements for restricted discretionary activities.

Table 7.4: Activity table for category B scheduled geological items

Activities	Feature type						
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1. Erecting buildings or structures, or planting vegetation that will obstruct views of scheduled features within a scheduled site surround	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD
2. Earthworks greater than 2m ³	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
3. Earthworks less than or equal to 2m ³	P	D	RD	RD	D	RD	P
4. External alterations or additions to existing buildings and the construction and/or relocation of new buildings.	D	D	D	D	PfNC	RD	D
5. Roothing construction	RD	NC	D	D	PfNC	RD	RD
6. Footpath construction	RD	NC	D	D	NC	RD	RD
7. Construction of fences or walls other than post and wire fences	RD	D	D	D	D	RD	RD
8. Construction of post and wire fences	P	RD	RD	RD	D	RD	P
9. Construction, replacement or upgrading of utility services by trenching	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
10. Construction, replacement or upgrading utility services by underground thrusting or directional drilling	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD
11. Planting any vegetation on the scheduled feature	RD	D	D	D	NC	RD	RD
12. Geological sampling to a maximum of 1000cc	P	RD	P	P	RD	RD	P
13. Grazing by heavy animals - ie cattle, horses, deer (excluding cave interiors)	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	P	P
14. Grazing by light animals - ie sheep (excluding cave interiors)	P	RD	RD	P	RD	P	P
15. Works or activities within scheduled site surrounds	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD	RD

Legend:

- P = Permitted
- RD = Restricted discretionary
- D = Discretionary
- NC = Non-complying
- ~~Pf~~ = Prohibited

Note:

See clause 7.6 for notification requirements for restricted discretionary activities.

7.12.5 Rules for scheduled site surrounds

The scheduled site surrounds will often contain geological items beyond the scheduled item(s). The geological items in the site surrounds may not have sufficient heritage value to warrant scheduling on their own, but they contribute to the heritage significance of the scheduled item. Therefore it is important to manage activities within scheduled site surrounds in order to protect the context of the scheduled item(s) from effects that may detract from its heritage significance and value.

7.12.5.1 Permitted activities

The following are permitted activities within the scheduled site surrounds of geological items:

1. Additions and alterations to existing buildings.
2. Routine maintenance, including all normal work required to use, maintain, and enjoy existing gardens or landscape features.
3. The planting of vegetation that does not include forestry or horticulture. {??}
4. The grazing of stock.
5. Geological sampling to a maximum of 1000cc.
6. The construction of post or wire fences.

7.12.5.2 Restricted discretionary activities

The following are restricted discretionary activities within the scheduled site surrounds of geological items:

1. The construction and/ or relocation of buildings.
2. Earthworks (excluding gardening for domestic purposes, which is permitted).
3. Forestry.
4. Horticulture.
5. The construction of fences or walls, other than post or wire fences.
6. The construction of roads or footpaths.

7.12.56 Matters of discretion and assessment criteria

7.12.6.1 Scheduled items

For restricted discretionary activities identified in Table 7.3: Activity table for category A scheduled geological items, and Table 7.4: Activity table for category B scheduled geological items, the council has restricted its discretion to considering the following matters:

1. Whether the nature, form and extent of the proposed works or activity adversely **effects** **affects** the feature or features for which the item was scheduled.
2. The extent to which the modification is necessary.
3. What alternative methods and locations are available to the applicant for carrying out the work or activities that do not involve a scheduled item.
4. The relevant objectives and policies of the Plan relating to heritage matters.
5. The purpose of the proposed works or activity and whether it has specific connections or relevance to the scheduled item.
6. The provisions of any relevant management plan.
7. The degree to which the feature or features have already been modified to the extent that further modification will not cause significant additional loss of geological information.

The council's assessment of an application for a discretionary activity will also include consideration of the matters listed above.

7.12.6.2 Scheduled site surrounds

For restricted discretionary activities identified in clause 7.12.5.2, the council has restricted its discretion to considering the following matter:

1. The extent to which the works or activities detract from the visual or physical context of the scheduled geological items contained within the scheduled site surrounds.