



Ecology	Name of item: Stony Batter Boulder Communities	Map reference: 23-37
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Island: Waiheke	SES 43 (Site of Ecological Significance)	
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Description of Item

Throughout the Stony Batter boulder field, lichen growth commonly accentuates the unusual surface grooves (flutes) on the rounded boulders. These flutes resulted from long-term weathering by slightly corrosive acidic water that drained from forest trees and perching plants. A little of the original surrounding forest still remains in the immediate vicinity of the boulder field. In some places, particularly where there is some sheltering vegetation, communities of perching rupestral (rock-dwelling) species still exist on the tops of some boulders. The more open landscapes that are now through most of the boulder fields provide suitable habitat for the New Zealand pipit, an endemic subspecies that although still relatively common on Waiheke is declining elsewhere in its range. Pipits favour open habitats, but avoid intensively farmed areas. The boulders themselves are likely to support native skinks.



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