



Ecology	Name of item: Matapihi Point Forest	Map reference: 5-9
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Island: Waiheke	SES 26 (Site of Ecological Significance)	
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Description of Item

One of the larger remnants of coastal forest in the inner gulf islands, this area of coastal taraire-puriri forest grows in a valley near the coast, sheltered behind the first steep ridge that runs between Waihihi and Matapihi Point. It is characterised by a diverse range of species, including a considerable amount of kohekohe. The forest has been fenced and the understorey is well developed. A special feature is the presence of considerable amounts of tawapou, a chronically threatened species that is in gradual decline throughout the Auckland Region. This species has become less common than it once was because of the clearance of much of New Zealand's coastal forests. An area of manuka gumland grows on a ridge within the forest. A thin band of manuka, kanuka and totara protects the coastal forest along its southern edge.



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