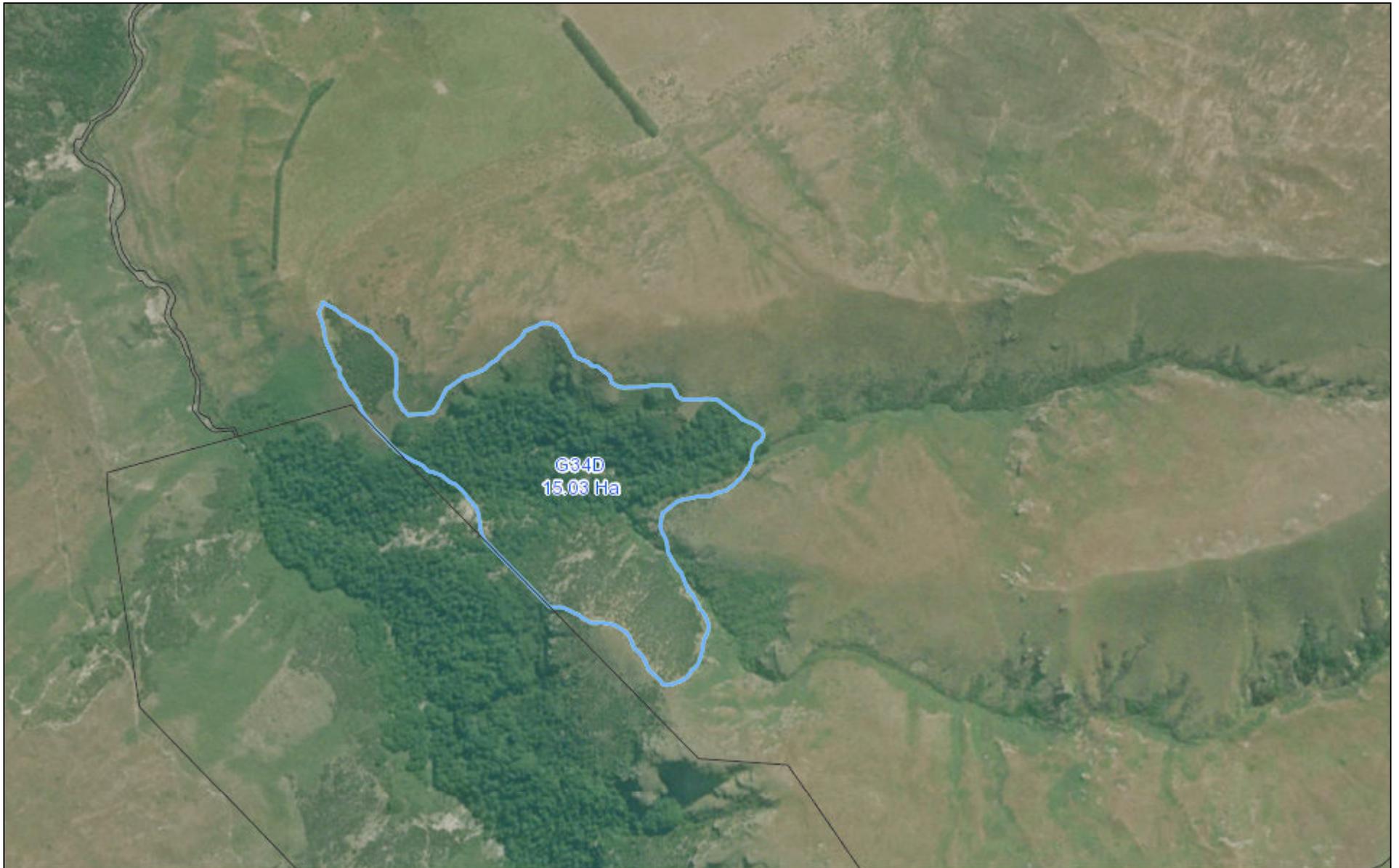




Significant Natural Area Assessment			
Project No: <i>11001/034</i>	Property Name: <i>Alphaburn Station</i> Site Name: <i>Alphaburn SNA D</i>	Ecologist: <i>Simon Beale</i> Date: <i>9 May 2015</i>	
Survey Undertaken By: <i>Simon Beale and Rebecca Teele</i> Survey undertaken by helicopter.		<u>Waypoint No (mid-point of survey area):</u> <i>NZTM: 1282160E 5041280N</i>	
LENZ Unit: <i>Q2.2a, Q2.2b</i> Ecological District: <i>Wanaka Ecological District</i>		Photo No.(s): <i>See below.</i>	
Topography: <i>Steep sided gullies and adjacent terrace.</i>	Slope: <i>(Generally >20°)</i>	Altitude: <i>450 – 650 m asl</i>	Aspect: <i>Variable</i>
Threatened Environment Status: <i>Critically underprotected</i>		Area Size (ha): <i>15.03</i>	
Representativeness: Mixed beech forest, manuka forest, montane shrubland – moderate degree of representativeness.			
Are there threatened species expected/identified in the survey area? If so, list species and threat status.			
Threatened Species		Threat Status	
<i>Falco novaezealandiae</i> “eastern” (eastern NZ Falcon)		At Risk - Recovering	
Provide onsite description of vegetation: Vegetation types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature mountain-silver-red beech forest; • Manuka forest, scrub and shrubland; • Manuka–mingimingi (<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>) shrubland. Structural Classes: Forest and shrubland. Forest Canopy: Mountain-silver-red beech Shrubbyland Canopy: Manuka/mingimingi–matagouri or mingimingi–matagouri			
Degree of Modification: The remnant forest appears to be a refuge from the Polynesian fires while the adjacent slopes have been modified by pastoral practices including fire and grazing.			
Degree of Recruitment: Regeneration of the forest evident around the margins where younger trees exist. Manuka dominated shrubland appears to be re-colonising hill slopes beyond the forest margins.			

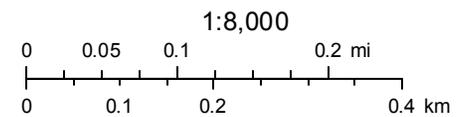
<p>Overall Health: The forest appears to be in good health by virtue of the degree of canopy closure.</p>
<p>Provide onsite description fauna habitat – species recorded or expected to be present: Beech forest and edges provide suitable habitat for insectivorous birds (rifleman, tomtit, fantail, grey warbler) along with long tailed cuckoo, morepork, Australasian harrier and Eastern falcon.</p>
<p>Threats to vegetation and flora/fauna species? (Weeds, predators, current management practices): Fire is the greatest threat to the integrity of the indigenous vegetation cover.</p>
<p>Rarity: The threatened environment classification identifies the Q2.2a and Q2.2b environments to have 39.92% and 44.68% indigenous vegetation cover remaining with 5.07% and 1.96% protected, respectively. The beech forest and shrubland is not uncommon in the Wanaka Ecological District. Both vegetation types and terrain likely to provide suitable habitat for threatened avifauna (NZ Falcon).</p>
<p>Area Shape and Area/Edge Ratio: The location of forest and shrublands within confined gullies ensure self-sustaining/successional processes despite the high area/edge ratios. The shrubland provides a degree of buffering to the margins of the beech forest remnant.</p>
<p>Diversity and Pattern (is there a notable range of species and habitats, aspects, sequences?): The forest/shrubland cover contributes to the vegetation pattern of the gullies.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness/special ecological characteristics (unusual veg. & landform features, distribution limits?): Distinctive in terms of the beech forest remnant and bordering manuka and grey shrubland.</p>
<p>Connectivity (how is the site connected to surrounding communities/areas?): The remnant area of beech forest and shrubland exhibits a high degree of connectivity with the beech forest in the Fern Burn, the latter lies within the conservation estate.</p>
<p>Sustainability (does the site possess the resilience to maintain its ecological integrity and processes?): The forest appears to be in good condition due to canopy closure and existence of younger age classes around the margins. Expansion of beech forest into shrubland is taking place.</p>
<p>Recommendation (Accept/Decline): We consider this area should be designated as a SNA in view of the following ecological attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The habitat the area affords to indigenous fauna, providing suitable habitat for two threatened species of native bird; • The good condition of the forest vegetation with closed canopy and regeneration processes evident.

Figure 1: The area of potential significance - Alphaburn SNA D - G34D



June 23, 2015

- Proposed Significant Natural Area
- Parcels
- Proposed Significant Natural Area



Please note the area shown is indicative and only for discussion purposes.



Figure 2: Mature beech forest remnant occupying gully of Fern Burn tributary and manuka forest covering part of an adjacent terrace and hillslopes.