



## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name : Camden**

**Lease number : Pm 028**

### **Conservation resources report**

As part of the process of tenure review, advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease is provided by Department of Conservation officials in the form of a conservation resources report. This report is the result of outdoor survey and inspection. It is a key piece of information for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

The report attached is released under the Official Information Act 1982.

**Copied November 2002**

**DOC CONSERVATION RESOURCES REPORT  
"CAMDEN" CROWN PASTORAL LEASE**

**PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

Camden occupies 7,874 hectares of land in inland Marlborough, running from the Awatere River to the upper slopes of Mount Tapuae-o-Uenuku and the adjacent summits of the Inland Kaikoura Range. This is the heart of the Marlborough High Country, with rugged hills and mountains stretching away into the distance in all directions.

The western boundary of the property runs alongside the Hodder River for its full length from the alpine pass under Mitre Peak to its confluence with the Awatere River. The north-west boundary runs along the south bank of the Awatere to the northern end of the ridge between the Isis Stream and the McRae River. The boundary then runs south along the crest of this ridge, over the summit of Mt McRae, and continues along the ridge over Mt Camden and the Bridge to the base of the final steep ascent to the Crows Nest. From here it is an arbitrary zig-zag line cutting across the upper slopes of the Tapuae-o-Uenuku massif, around into the headwaters of the Hodder River. The southern boundary, crossing the upper slopes of Tapuae-o-Uenuku, was drawn to establish a scenic reserve that would bring the main peaks of the range into public ownership. The rest of the southern and eastern boundary follows ridgelines, while the northern and western boundaries follow the riparian margins of the Awatere River and Hodder River.

There are marginal strips beside the Shin River and Cam River and a legal road beside the Isis Stream. Much of the public Awatere Valley Road runs on road reserve through the northern fringe of the property. This road mainly serves the farms of the valley, but in recent years it has been used for approximately 6 weeks over Xmas/New Year as a tourist route from Blenheim to Hanmer via Molesworth Station.

Adjoining land tenure is as follows: (see Topo/Cadastral Map)

- To the north-west across the Awatere River is freehold.
- To the west of the lower Hodder is freehold and west of the mid and upper Hodder River is pastoral occupation license.
- To the east of the northern half of the eastern boundary is Awapiri pastoral lease, while along the southern half a block of public conservation land occupies the eastern slopes of Mt Camden (The Mead Conservation Area).
- The southern boundary, which roughly follows the ridgeline of The Bridge, adjoins freehold in the Clarence Valley.
- The alpine peaks and upper slopes of Tapuae-o-Uenuku, Alarm, Pinnacle and Crows Nest are Scenic Reserve.

The Camden pastoral lease straddles the boundary of two ecological districts (and two ecological regions)- the Tapuae-O-Uenuku Ecological District (within the Clarence Ecological Region) and the Medway Ecological District (within the Inland Marlborough Ecological Region) (McEwan 1987). Both ecological regions encompass areas of Mesozoic greywacke mountains but the Clarence Ecological Region defines an area with a high mountain and continental-type climate, whereas the Inland Marlborough Ecological Region defines an area with lower mountains and an inland-montane climate of dry summers and cool dry winters. Camden lies in a transition area between these two ecological regions (and districts) and supports plant communities and animals representative of both districts.

Existing protected areas within these two ecological districts that are close to Camden, are:

Mt Tapuae-O-Uenuku Scenic Reserve (2225 ha.);  
Mead Conservation Area (2428 ha.);  
Isolated Hill Scenic Reserve (2160 ha).

**PART 2: INHERENT VALUES: DESCRIPTION OF CONSERVATION RESOURCES AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**2.1 Landscape**

**General landscape character:**

The property contains a wide range of landscape types. They include the Awatere river flats, the distinctive pointed tors that rise from them, the open valley of the Isis Stream, the incised course of the Hodder, the central complex of steep hills, the broad massif of Mount Camden, and the high alpine valleys under the peaks of Tapuae-o-Uenuku. Even the "ke" of the land is complex. While the valleys give a general north-south structure to the land, they are crossed by what appear to be complex patterns of faulting and bedding, which run generally south-west to north-east. In addition, southern parts of the property show the influence of past glaciation.

In contrast to the wide variety of landforms, the vegetation cover appears much more uniform. Pasture predominates on all but the steepest, rockiest and highest slopes, giving the property the clear character of a hill country farm. Short tussock, bracken, matagouri, tauhinu and shrubby coprosmas are widespread amongst the pasture, as are heinacium and sweet brier. Dryness is a predominant theme, indicated by bare soil, thorny and drought tolerant shrubs, and the general colour of the hills. The northern parts of the farm, nearer to the Awatere River, appear lusher than those further south, with healthier short tussock, and stands of kanuka. This may be due to variations in the farming regime.

**Landscape visibility:**

The peaks and upper slopes are the focus of views from much of the Awatere Valley and from considerably further afield. Tapuae-o-Uenuku stands out, isolated from the main ranges of the Southern Alps. Consequently it has considerable significance even when hard to pick out in the most distant views as from the Wellington coast, or from the mountains of Kahurangi National Park.

Similarly, it is the focus for views from commercial airliners and private aeroplanes flying between the North and South Islands.

People are able to look over the property in views from the air, from the summit of Crows Nest and from many other high points around the Awatere Valley, such as Mitre, Mt Gladstone, Ferny Gair and Altimarloch.

From the other peaks of Tapuae-o Uenuku much of the property is obscured by Crows Nest.

Walkers in the Hodder Valley see only those hillsides surrounding them, and travellers on the Awatere Valley Road see the northern flats, the first line of hills that rise from them, and more distant views of Mount Camden and the higher slopes under the main peaks.

**Landscape Units:**

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Camden Conservation Resources Report  
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For the purposes of this report the landscape of the run has been subdivided into 34 units. This report then puts them into four groups: the front country, the middle country, under the mountain and the mountain country.

**The front country (Units 1 to 11):**

**Units 1 to 3**

These are the river flats, terraces and gentle to slopes alongside the Awatere River. Each of the units is on two levels, with a floodplain, a terrace edge and an upper area. In each the upper area is flat enough to accommodate an airstrip and is crossed by the Awatere Valley Road. The vegetation in all the units is predominantly exotic pasture.

In **Unit 1** the upper level has the homestead and associated farm buildings, in a setting of tall exotic trees and exotic pasture, and is crossed by the Awatere Valley Road about 400 metres asl.



- Natural features include terrace and terrace edge landforms and wetland areas
- In this highly modified unit, indigenous vegetation is an insignificant landscape element
- The homestead, woolshed and airstrip together are a cultural feature, but of limited visual significance

In **Unit 2** the upper level runs back into the hills alongside the Cam River and Dinner Stream about 460 metres asl. It includes buildings servicing the top dressing strip, deciduous trees and a couple of pine shelterbelts, and is crossed by the Awatere Valley Road.



- Natural features include terrace and terrace edge landforms and wetland areas
- In this highly modified unit, indigenous vegetation is an insignificant landscape element

**Unit 3** includes a high terrace about 500 metres asl, with a scarp dropping down to the Hodder River, and two lower terraces to its north. It is predominantly in exotic pasture. The Awatere Valley Road and the power line cross the unit.





- A simple, open high terrace with scarp on Hodder side and lower terrace edges to north. Features include terrace and terrace edge landforms
- In this highly modified unit, indigenous vegetation is significant landscape element only on the Hodder scarp
- The Hodder scarp is a part of the entry experience for those setting off to ascend Tapuae-o-Uenuku

#### Units 4 to 6

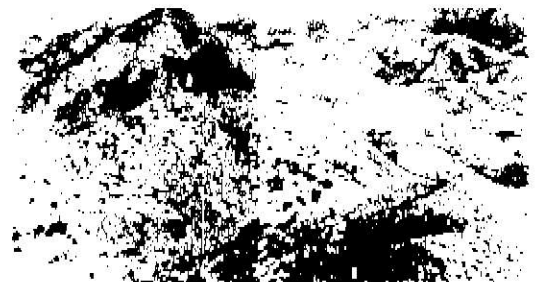
These units comprise some of the gentlest areas of hill country on the property, but even here many of the slopes are steep. They appear well grazed and fertile, perhaps due to recent top-dressing. While exotic pasture predominates, there is also a good distribution of indigenous shrubs and grasses, especially on the shadier slopes and along drainage lines, as well as a few patches of horehound and gorse. Two overhead power lines, one on poles and the other on pylons cross the units.

**Unit 4** is distinguished from the adjacent and similar Unit 5 by the lower height of the hills, up to 600 metres asl, and the gentler overall slope of the land, much of which is the generally north-west facing toeslopes of Unit 5. There is some indigenous vegetation on shady slopes and along drainage lines. The overhead power line crosses it on pylons.



- An interesting "knobbly" landform
- Patterns of native vegetation on slopes and along drainage lines

**Unit 5** is a complex pattern of steep but relatively low hills, rising to pointy summits around 700 metres asl and hence higher than those of Unit 4, with a complex pattern of low saddles and drainage lines running amongst them. There is a peppering of indigenous vegetation, mainly on shady slopes and along drainage lines. There are a few patches of horehound and gorse. The overhead power lines cross it on pylons.



- An interesting "knobbly" landform
- Patterns of native vegetation on slopes and along drainage lines
- The distinctive landforms are a particular feature of the Awatere Valley
- The knobs are a notable feature in the experience of driving along the Awatere Valley Road

**Unit 6** – no photograph taken

This unit forms the entrance to the property for visitors driving up the Awatere Valley Road and the backdrop to the homestead. It contains several scenic features, derived largely from the combination of the three lines of rock outcrops which cross the unit, the two streams which cut through them and the patterns of indigenous trees and shrubs associated with them. The mix of exotic pasture, short tussock and regenerating indigenous trees and shrubs adds to the scenic attraction. The most appealing areas are around the waterways

and lower slopes of the unit. These are located convenient to the public road and some are visible from the road, which runs through the unit.

- The distinctive landforms, rocky tors and cliffs, and Isis waterfall.
- The patterns of native vegetation, including mixed broadleaf shrubs and trees on steeper slopes and cliffs and stands of kanuka
- Culturally valued scenic and aesthetic attributes –the visual sequence along the Awatere Valley Road, and gateways to the back country of the upper valleys
- Area which makes a special contribution to the overall quality of significant values -Tors, cliffs and gorge features along the streams, with associated vegetation

### Units 7 to 9

These units comprise more clearly defined ridge/sideslope/valley systems in the front country.

Unit 7 is the north face overlooking the Awatere River and the Awatere Valley Road at the end of the range which forms the eastern boundary of the property. It is a long, uniform slope predominantly covered in pasture.



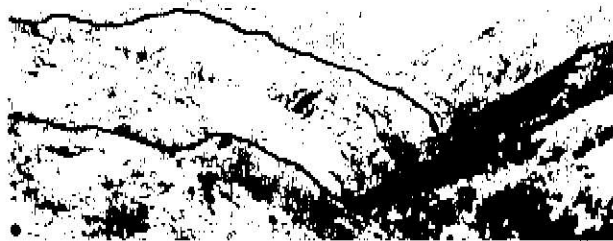
Unit 8 is the lower reaches of the Isis Stream. A valley of great repose, this has a gentle floor and sideslopes and its form creates enticing views both up and down the valley. The landform is complemented by the patterns of indigenous regeneration around the streambed and on the lower slopes.



- An appealing combination of gentle valley floor and enclosing hillsides, with a well ordered progression up the valley
- Visually attractive groupings of native broadleaf trees and shrubs, including scattered kanuka, further articulate the landform
- An integral part of the high quality aesthetic experience of the Shin Valley
- Combination of landform and vegetation at the bottom of the valley (north end of the unit)

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**Unit 9** has similarities to Unit 8, but it is not quite so sublime, due to the wider riverbed, the steeper sideslopes and the less subtle pattern of vegetation.



- A simple, structured landform sequence with a clearly articulated valley floor
- Some patterns of kanuka, mostly on the western faces
- A representative high country landscape leading towards the back country
- Closely associated with the experience of the lower Cam in Unit 6

#### **The middle country (Units 10 to 20):**

##### **Units 10 to 13**

As one moves south both the watercourses and the ridges are higher, while the vegetation patterns become less lush and simpler. The ubiquitous dry pasture peppered with short tussock is broken by scattered patches and, in places, more extensive areas of matagouri, tauhinu and bracken.

**Unit 10** contains the forks of the upper Isis Stream. This unit is a wide basin running across the line of the valley, and has low saddles to the adjacent Cam and McRae valleys. The mixed regeneration of the lower valley is largely replaced by the simpler, greyer and less visually appealing patterns of bracken, matagouri and tauhinu.



- An appealing combination of gentle valley floors and enclosing hillsides, running across the grain of the valley
- Limited range of indigenous shrubs, which are largely restricted to shady faces.
- The transverse nature of the unit and the low side saddles mark the transition between the lower and upper Shin
- The entire unit is part of the attractive Shin valley sequence

**Unit 11** is a westward continuation of the transverse basin of Unit 10. The patterns of the geological strata are particularly noticeable, and appear to be the cause of the gentle transverse side-slopes and the low saddles. However, the mixed regeneration of the lower valley is largely replaced by less visually appealing patterns of bracken, matagouri and tauhinu.

- Distinctive bedding planes revealed in landform which has resulted in broad side valleys radiating from the main Cam valley and a steeper section of riverbed
- Limited range of indigenous shrubs, in comparison to the lower valley

- The transverse nature of the unit and the low side saddles mark the transition between the lower and upper Cam
- The transverse nature of the unit and the low side saddles mark the transition between the lower and upper Cam

**Unit 12.** This unit continues the landscape sequence of the Shin valley, but it is the most rugged section, including the dramatic feature of a rocky spur, riverside bluff and steep higher slopes with associated native tree and shrub cover.



- Overall, a representative and intermediate valley landscape.
- Patterns of vegetation around the river and on rocky and shady faces
- An integral part of the high quality aesthetic experience of the Shin Valley
- Dramatic riverside bluff, rocky spur and steep higher slopes with associated native tree and shrub cover.

**Unit 13** An open, gentle valley, similar to the lower Isis. The landforms make a pleasant landscape structure, but the vegetation is largely exotic grasses with scattered silver tussock and patches of heiracium.



- A pleasant, gentle, pastoral upper valley
- Limited areas of visually significant native vegetation
- A pleasant but undistinguished side valley in the Shin

#### Units 14 to 20

The character of these hills and valleys falls between the relative lushness and easy contour of the front country and the craggy nature of the mountain country. The ridges and spurs are generally rounded and are given interest by scattered rock outcrops. The vegetation cover is predominantly dry pasture peppered with short tussock, but is broken by scattered patches and more extensive areas of matagouri, tauhinu and bracken, especially on steeper, shadier and lower slopes. The overall landscape has the character of extensively grazed pasture. In places the streams are turned by rocky bluffs and run through narrow gorges.

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The ridges of **Unit 14** rise to around 1100 metres asl and they, and their sidespurs, are mostly rounded, with scattered rocky bluffs. The undistinguished Cam musterers' hut is by the riverbed at the southern corner of this unit. It contains the visually intriguing feature of a tight meander in a steeply falling section of the Cam riverbed, forming a narrow promontory.



- Rugged hillslopes
- Limited range of visually significant native vegetation
- Broken landforms and grazed character limit the aesthetic appeal
- Distinctive meander in the steeply falling riverbed, with associated riverside bluffs and vegetation

**Unit 15.** As with Unit 14, this is a rugged set of middle-sized hills rising to nearly 1000 metres asl, mostly clad in extensively grazed pasture. However, it has no special features to distinguish it. It contains an undistinguished musterers' hut.



- Rugged hillslopes and incised riverbeds
- Limited areas of visually significant native vegetation, mainly alongside the Shin and Hodder rivers
- Broken landforms and grazed character limit the aesthetic appeal
- Bluffs and cliffs beside the Shin

**Unit 16** appears to gain its landform from a slanting bedding plane, perhaps associated with that which influences Unit 11. The gentle slopes are mainly covered in extensively grazed pasture, with a few areas of dense matagouri. It has the undistinguished character of hill country pastoral farmland but contains a dramatic cliff feature beside the bed of the Shin.

- Hill country pastoral farmland
- Patches of matagouri
- Significant cliff beside the Shin





Unit 17 is tucked in behind and above Unit 16, rising to 1400 metres asl. It is similar in slope and orientation, and it also has a predominant cover of extensive pasture, but it is rather more rugged, with rock outcrops and gullies, and greater areas of matagouri.



- Rugged Hillslopes
- Extensive patches of matagouri

Unit 18 gains its attractions largely from its association with Units 25 and 27 – taken on its own it has much the same characteristics as Units 14, 15, 17 and 19. However its summits (rising to 15000 metres asl) are higher and hence more alpine than in some of those similar units, and also its base is higher (from 800 metres asl), lessening the visual impact of the side slopes.



- It is an integral part of the landscape encompassing the neighbouring Mt Camden (1,882 metres asl) and the upper Cam basin, but the unit itself has more in common with Units 14, 15, 17 and 19
- Together with adjacent units 25 and 27 this forms a scenically appealing hidden valley
- A number of rocky tors add some interest to the landscape

Unit 19. This large, rugged hill stands isolated at the northern end of Tongue Spur, being almost surrounded by the incised courses of the Hodder and Shin rivers. The vegetation is predominantly extensively grazed pasture, with areas of matagouri, tauhinu and bracken, but the steep spurs and bluffs close to the Hodder River have a more varied range of woody native vegetation.



- Rugged hillslopes and incised riverbeds
- Limited areas of visually significant native vegetation, mainly on the lower and mid slopes above the Hodder and alongside the Shin
- Bluffs and cliffs beside the Hodder, the significance of which is boosted by this being the route to Tapuae-o-Uenuku

Unit 20 lies on the lower slopes of Tongue Spur. While being very much a part of the spur, its character is closer to that of Unit 16 than to the character of the rest of the spur. The relatively gentle upper slopes are dominated by pastoral vegetation, while matagouri is the main cover of the slightly steeper lower slopes and of the Hodder valley flats at their base.





- Hill country pastoral farmland, less rugged than surrounding hills
- Exotic pasture and matagouri provide the character of the vegetation

**Under the mountain (Units 21 and 22):**

These occupy the zone of transition between the rugged hills of the central country and the true alpine scenery of the mountain country. Present here are what appears to be an eroded terminal moraine across the Shin near the lowest corner of unit 21, and the Tongue Spur buttressing the northern face of the mountain. Together these forms reinforce the impression that south from here the landscape has more in common with the high mountains than the middle hills. However, once again, the predominant vegetation character is extensive pasture, with only patches of remnant woody native vegetation around the watercourses, and the form of the spurs and sideslopes is in most places very similar to that of units 14 to 20.

The altitude of Unit 21 spans between 700 and 1750 metres asl. The upper slopes of its eastern faces and the easier parts of its Tongue Spur faces are similar in character to Units 14,15,17 and 19, but the streams and their adjacent slopes, and the steeper slopes on Tongue Spur have a distinct mountain character.



- Deeply cut, wandering waterways and a varied landform which includes steep rock ridges, slips and scree slopes
- While mixed pasture dominates the vegetation character over much of the unit, there are significant areas of native vegetation, rock, scree and slips, and snow in winter
- This upper parts of unit visually buttress the northern side of the Tapuae-o-Uenuku massif in both close-up and distant views
- Eroded terminal moraine signals the transition to the high mountains

Unit 22 links the upper slopes of the south end of Mt Camden to the tortuous course of the Shin. It is similar in landform and vegetation character to the eastern slopes of Unit 21.



- Rugged hillslopes and incised riverbeds falling from Mt Camden
- Vegetation is predominantly pastoral, with alpine influence at higher altitudes
- Despite its location, the grazed character limits the aesthetic appeal of much of the unit

- Higher parts of the unit form an integral part of the slopes of Mt Camden

The mountain country (Units 23 to 34):

**Upper Shin (Units 23 to 24)**

The rugged nature of these units with their dramatic bluffs, incised streams, ragged ridges, slips and scree faces, demonstrate the forces of uplift and erosion at play in this, the most geologically dynamic part of the South Island.

Unit 23 falls steeply from the 2448 metres high summit of Crows Nest to the Shin 800 metres below. It includes the full drama of mountain scenery. The top one sixth of the unit is in the scenic reserve, the rest, below 2100 metres asl, being within the Camden property.



- This unit is the main part of the northern side of the Tapuae-o-Uenuku massif in both close-up and distant views
- High proportion of snow, bare rock, slip and scree slopes
- A prominent face of the Tapuae-o-Uenuku massif
- Upper slopes are visible as part of the mountain in distant views from the top of the South Island and from the North Island

Unit 24 is effectively the back wall of the property. While even here the vegetation is modified, the extent of ground surface free of visible vegetation emphasises the unit's natural, indigenous character. The deeply incised tributaries of the Shin wind through the base of the slopes



- The rocky spurs, slips, high altitude scree slopes and gorgey creeks combine to create an overall wilderness character
- Vegetation remnants, both woody on lower bluffs and shady faces and alpine at higher altitudes
- Part of the main divide of the heart of the Inland Kaikoura Range
- The ridgeline linking the peaks of the range forms a sharp watershed between the Awatere and Clarence valleys

**Mounts Camden and McRae (Units 25 to 28):**

The classic mountain landforms of these units would be impressive anywhere in New Zealand, even when dwarfed, as here, by the nearby bulk and elevation of Tapuae-o-Uenuku. However, the predominant vegetation cover on all but the highest altitudes projects a strongly pastoral character, so reducing their intrinsic value as mountain wilderness.

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Unit 25 is the core of a Shangri-la landscape, a gentle valley nestled below the 1882 metres asl summit of Mt Camden, above where the river descends through the steeper landscapes of Unit 14. The landscape potential of this unit and its setting is compromised by the plain cover of extensive pasture on the easier slopes, with the mixed vegetation along the watercourses being tucked out of general view.



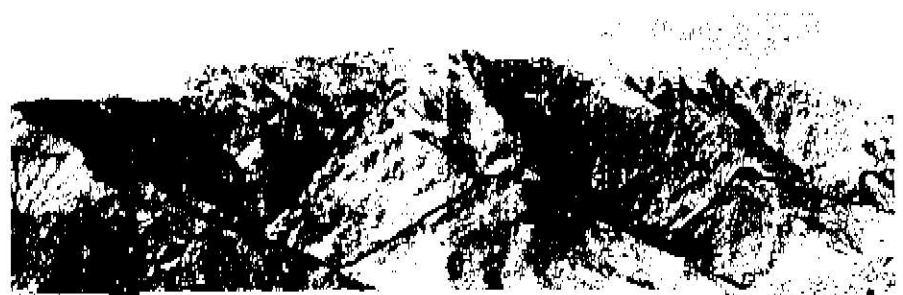
- Gentle spurs of a high valley head
- Exotic pasture with scattered short tussock provide the predominant character of the vegetation
- The Hidden valley character
- Patterns of woody vegetation along the watercourses

Unit 26 is the north-facing buttress of Mt Camden. Its dry slopes are relatively gentle, especially at lower altitude, and are largely covered in extensive pasture.



- The prominent northern buttress of Mt Camden
- Exotic pasture and short tussock provide the character of the vegetation
- An integral and prominent face of Mt Camden
- The prominence of the upper slopes

Unit 27 covers the summit and upper north-west facing slopes of the Mt Camden ridge, reaching 2022 metres asl. While dwarfed by Tapuae-o-Uenuku, this is a high peak, higher than Mount Torlesse in Canterbury and all of the mountains of North-west



Nelson. These craggy, shingly upper slopes have a high degree of natural character.

- The ridge and upper slopes of an alpine mountain
- Rock bluffs, scree slopes, patches of native alpine vegetation
- A significant peak marking the westernmost end of the alpine part of the range which is visible from afar

**Unit 28** is the western slopes of 1438 metres high Mt McRae, a delightful mountain that provides the focus for the head of the Isis valley. As throughout the property, the vegetation is largely pastoral in character, although there is more of an indigenous alpine character amongst the bluffs around the summit.

- A fine example of a pastoral high country mountain
- Some indigenous character around the summit
- The unit is the focus for appealing views up the Isis valley
- Summit and crags of the upper slopes

#### **Alpine Hodder (Units 29 to 32):**

These units are truly alpine, with all the natural grandeur associated with true alpine scenery.

**Unit 29** rises steeply from the narrow gorges of the Hodder River to the Tongue Spur ridgeline. For those walking up the Hodder entering this unit marks where they leave the easy country and enter the alpine wilderness. Significant areas of sub-alpine vegetation reinforce this impression.



- Dramatic subalpine scenery
- Extensive areas of rocky bluffs and native subalpine vegetation
- An intense feeling of entering in the high mountains
- The tight gut in which the Hodder river runs provides a dramatic approach to the upper basin under Tapuae-o-Uenuku

**Unit 30** is fully alpine, dominated by crags and cliffs, surrounded by steep scree slopes.



- Dramatic alpine scenery
- Dominated by rocky bluffs and scree slopes
- Classic alpine experience of the high Inland Kaikoura Range
- An integral part of the massif in view from afar

**Unit 31** straddles the boundary of the property – the upper half of it lies in the scenic reserve but the bottom half is within the property. Most of the bottom half is hidden in this picture, behind the foreground spur, but its character is essentially the same as the illustrated part – high alpine crags and scree slopes, with snow for much of the year.



- High alpine slopes of a classic high alpine valley running up to rugged peaks
- Dominated by snow, scree slopes and rocky bluffs
- Classic alpine experience of the high Inland Kaikoura Range
- An integral part of the massif in view from afar

**Unit 32** also straddles the boundary of the property – the upper third of it lies in the scenic reserve but the bottom two thirds is within the property. This photograph is at an oblique angle and shows it side on, but the character of the obscured parts is essentially the same as the illustrated part – high alpine crags and scree slopes, with snow for much of the year.



- High alpine slopes, classic high glacial valley side
- Dominated by snow, scree slopes and rocky bluffs
- Classic alpine experience of the high Seaward Kaikoura Range
- An integral part of the massif in view from afar

**Over the range (Units 33 to 34):**

These two units are included in the analysis because small parts of the property lie within them. However, the boundary line through them appears quite arbitrary and anomalous, negating the logic of the landform.

**Unit 33** is one of the most dramatic landscape features in the Seaward Kaikoura Range. Most of it lies in the scenic reserve but a portion, the bottom part in this illustration, is within the property. The illustration shows only the northern third of the crag. It wraps around the ridge of the range and towers over units 24 and 34.



- Dramatic alpine rock bluff
- Alpine rock bluff accentuated by snow for much of the year
- The most dramatic part of the massif in views from the north and east
- Entire unit is a focal part of the massif in view from afar

**Unit 34** – no photograph taken.

This unit is a reflection of Unit 24, on the south-facing slopes of The Bridge. It is almost all outside the property. That part within the property is a relatively narrow band along the ridge and upper slopes, and is predominantly scree slopes and rock bluffs.

- The rocky spurs, slips, high altitude scree slopes and gorge creeks combine to create an overall wilderness character
- That part of the unit in the property is dominated by scree slopes and rocky bluffs
- Prominent ridge providing the setting for Tapuae-o-Uenuku
- The ridgeline linking the peaks of the range forms a sharp watershed between the Awatere and Clarence valleys

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## 2.2 Landforms and Geology

Basement rocks of the Inland Kaikoura Range are comprised of highly folded and contorted greywackes and argillites formed from sediments deposited in the New Zealand Geosyncline during the Jurassic Period. Collectively known as the Torlesse Group, this series includes concretions, rare conglomerates, limestone bands (one of which outcrops in the Isis Stream valley), igneous dykes, and extrusives (DSIR 1962). The mid-Cretaceous igneous rocks that outcrop on the major summits of the range, especially in the headwaters of the Hodder and Shin Rivers, are particularly significant. They have been described as the only large undeformed igneous (ultra-mafic) intrusion present in the sedimentary rocks of the South Island mountains (Department of Lands and Survey 1983). These red/black rocks form a visually-dominant part of the upper Shin catchment and Tongue Spur on the Camden property.

The Inland Kaikoura Range is part of the most tectonically active area in New Zealand, with high rates of uplift and active fault movement. The property rises from 400 metres in the Awatere Valley to over 2300 metres at its boundary with Tapuae-O-Uenuku Scenic Reserve on the summit of the range, over a distance of approximately 15 kilometres. The major Awatere Fault is present northwest of the property across the Awatere River and the Gladstone Fault bisects the property on an east-west axis, from upper Isis Stream, across the mid-Cam River, to the lower Hodder River. It is a prominent landscape feature, separating the lower hill country from the steeper upper slopes of the range.

Small areas of flat land are present at the lower (northwestern) boundary of the property adjoining the Awatere River. These river terraces form the only flat pastureland on the property and drop steeply to the Awatere River. Visually, the property is dominated by the massif of Mt Tapuae-O-Uenuku and Crows Nest when viewed from the Awatere Valley road. It forms an impressive mountain backdrop to the dissected hill country lower on the property.

High altitude areas on the property are dominated by weathered rock ridges and bluffs, shattered-rock pavements on gentler ridges, and extensive scree and debris flow slopes. Incipient alpine soils derived from rock fragments and loess are very localised and the alpine areas support very sparse and scattered plant communities. The mid-altitude and steep country supports weakly developed steepland yellow-brown earths (Gibbs 1980). These Class VIIe and VIIc soils are prone to severe sheet, gully, and debris-avalanche erosion. The lower catchments of Cam River and Isis Stream, below 800 metres, support Class VIc Kaikoura yellow-brown earths prone to moderate sheet and soil slip erosion.

The mid to low altitude hills on the property are typically steep and downslope movement of soil particles is common wherever vegetative cover is sparse. Drier sites, typically on ridges, have a high proportion of bare ground, though sheet and slip erosion is generally confined to steeper mid-slope sites.

## 2.3 Vegetation

### 2.3.1 Vegetation History

Early European accounts of the vegetation of the Awatere Valley (Kennington 1978) suggest that pre-European fires had removed most forest cover from the valley. Molloy (1977) concluded from a study of charcoal deposits that fire was an occasional natural phenomenon throughout the eastern South Island, with two periods of widespread burning about 6000 and 2500 years ago. More frequent burning during the last 1000 years is



recorded from the Seaward Kaikoura Range (Wardle 1971) and the conspicuous lack of old stumps on the Inland Kaikoura Range suggests that most remaining forest was removed by fire during Maori times. It is likely that shrubland and grassland dominated Camden when the first European pastoralists ventured up the Awater Valley in the 1860s, and that this was burnt repeatedly in the early years of pastoralism (Williams 1989).

Forest cover on Camden is now confined to several very small mountain totara (*Podocarpus hallii*) and mountain beech (*Nothofagus solandri* var. *cliffortioides*) remnants in headwater tributaries and strongly regenerating kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*) and mixed hardwood forests on stream sides at lower altitudes. The most recent large-scale burning occurred in the head of Isis Stream in 1965, on Shin (Tongue) Spur in 1967, and on the south-facing slopes of the Cam River valley in 1972 (Frank Prouting, pers.comm.). Regeneration of shrublands since these fires is evident.

Present day vegetation is predominantly open grassland with scattered shrubs adjacent to the Awater Valley Roads. Elsewhere the open grasslands include more extensive shrublands especially in gullies and along stream sides. Alpine areas are generally bare, with only a sparse and scattered plant cover. Kanuka shrublands cover some of the lower altitude slopes, especially along stream and river margins on the shadler slopes.

### 2.3.2 Vegetation

#### Alpine vegetation:

The high alpine zone is dominated by rock and scree, with only scattered vegetation present. Plant species present are representative of the inland Marlborough mountain ranges, notably members of the daisy family (*Raoulia*, *Helichrysum*, and *Haastia*) including the 'vegetable sheep' (*Haastia pulvinaris* and *Raoulia bryoides*). Species of *Hebe* and *Coprosma* are also common.

Above 1300m broad-leaved snow tussock are present but not dominant. The most significant community is in the upper Isis Stream. Mountain flax often forms the dominant cover on steeper sub-alpine slopes.

At low alpine sites (below 1300 metres) plant cover is more extensive and is dominated by herbfields and sparse grasslands. Stable sites support bristle tussock (*Rytidosperma setifolium*), fescue tussock (*Festuca novae-zelandiae*), blue tussock (*Poa colensoi*), with a range of herbs: *Leucopogon suaveolens*, *L.fraseri*, *Ranunculus insignis*, *Luzula rufa*, snowberry (*Gaultheria "nz"*), *Blechnum penna-marina*, *Aciphylla monroi*, *Raoulia parkii*, *Acaena inermis*, *Anisotome filifolia*, and the introduced sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*). Sheltered sites support shrublands dominated by snow totara (*Podocarpus nivalis*), inaka (*Dracophyllum longifolium*), tauhinu (*Cassinia vauvilliersii*), *Brachyglottis monroi*, and occasional broad-leaved snow tussock (*Chionochloa flavescens*).

Rocky sites at this altitude support porcupine shrub (*Melicactus alpinus*), the closely-related *Melicactus* aff. *alpinus*, *Olearia coriacea*, *O.nummularifolia*, *Hebe rupicola*, sun hebe (*Heliohebe pentasepala*), *Scleranthus uniflorus*, *Celmisia cockayneana*, *Helichrysum parvifolium*, and Marlborough rock daisy (*Pachystegia insignis* agg.). Small mountain totara and mountain beech remnants are present at this altitude, frequently associated with mountain ribbonwood (*Hohenia lyallii*), and are described under 'forests' below.

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Mid-altitude grasslands:

Sparse but floristically-diverse grasslands dominate the mid altitude country between about 800 and 1100 metres. Common grasses present include: silver tussock (*Poa cita*), bristle tussock, fescue tussock, sweet vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), browntop (*Agrostis capillaris*), and blue tussock. Other major components of these grasslands are: *Pimelea oreophila*, *Acaena caesiiglauca*, *Geranium sessiliflorum*, *Raoulia australis*, *R.subsericea*, *R.glabra*, *Leucopogon suaveolens*, *L.fraseri*, *Luzula rufa*, *Brachyglottis lagopus*, *B.bellidioides*, mouse-ear hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*), king devil (*H.praealtum*), *H.lepidulum*, harebell (*Wahlenbergia albomarginata*), *Ranunculus insignis*, *Gnaphalium audax*, cotton daisy (*Celmisia spectabilis*), *Scleranthus uniflorus*, and sheep's sorrel.

These extensive grasslands form the dominant cover in the headwater basins of Isis Stream and the Cam River, and on the gentler ridges including Tongue Spur (all within the 'back' block). Mouse-ear hawkweed forms up to 20% of vegetative cover on dry sites, particularly open ridges, and there is frequently 20 to 50% bare ground. Mid-altitude grasslands also support scattered shrubs, especially tauhinu, matagouri (*Discaria toumatou*), and *Coprosma propinqua*.

Montane grasslands:

Below 800 metres the grasslands are less diverse, and dominated by silver tussock, fescue tussock, bristle tussock, sweet vernal, browntop, and wheat grass (*Elymus* sp.). Other common species are: mouse-ear hawkweed, *Leucopogon fraseri*, *Raoulia australis*, *Geranium sessiliflorum*, *Vittadinia australis*, viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), sheep's sorrel, and white clover (*Trifolium repens*). On dry sites there are significant areas of bare ground and patches of mouse-ear hawkweed and *Raoulia australis*. Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) is very common on some slopes, particularly rubbly slopes or south-facing sites, in places forming a complete ground cover. Scattered within these grasslands are tauhinu, matagouri and coprosma species, along with regenerating kanuka. Scattered plants of briar are also common.

Shrublands:

Subalpine shrublands on the property are dominated by inaka, snow totara, *Brachyglottis monroi*, and mountain flax (*Phormium cookianum*). Other species present include *Olearia nummularifolia*, *O.cymbifolia*, mountain wineberry (*Aristotelia fruticosa*), *Coprosma* aff.*pseudocuneata*, celery pine (*Phyllocladus alpinus*), *Pittosporum anomalum*, *Myrsine nummularia*, cotton daisy, and *Aciphylla aurea*. This community grades into low mountain ribbonwood forest in gullies, and scattered manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) on drier sites. Subalpine shrublands are scattered, and not common, on the property.

Montane shrublands are dominated by *Coprosma propinqua*, matagouri, and tauhinu. Shrublands on damper slopes include kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*), mountain wineberry, broadleaf (*Griselinia littoralis*), *Carmichaelia ovata*, mountain flax, and *Coprosma crassifolia*. These shrublands are quite common on the property, especially on valley sides. On drier slopes, and at lower altitudes, the shrublands lack the above species but have increasing amounts of kanuka, sweet brier (*Rosa rubiginosa*), tauhinu, *Olearia odorata*, bush lawyer (*Rubus schmidelioides*), *Parsonsia capsularis*, and *Clematis afoliata*. These shrublands are more scattered, but form a significant proportion of the vegetative cover on the 'middle' and lower-'back' blocks of the property. Kanuka forms pure stands, and is readily colonising open grasslands, on lower altitude parts of the property.

Low forests:

At higher altitudes low-forests are dominated by mountain ribbonwood (in gullies) or regenerating mountain totara. These plant communities are very scattered and often include: mountain flax, prickly shield fern (*Polystichum vestitum*), and the shrubby species described above for the higher altitude shrublands.

The most important low-forest communities on the property are the mixed hardwood forests occupying the lower slopes and stream sides. These diverse plant communities have escaped recent burning and are (in most cases) reasonably well buffered from stock by steep terrain or adjoining shrublands. Dominant species in these forests are: broadleaf, kohuhu, akiraho (*Olearia paniculata*), *Coprosma robusta*, *C. linariifolia*, lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*), mountain three-finger (*P. ternatum*), mountain flax, ti tree (*Cordyline australis*), koromiko (*Hebe salicifolia*), and lawyer (*Rubus cissoides*). Other species present are five-finger (*Pseudopanax arboreus*), fierce lancewood (*P. ferox*), fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*), *Hebe traversii*, *H. rekaiensis*, pink broom (*Carmichaella glabrescens*), mountain wineberry, mountain ribbonwood, weeping matipo (*Myrsine divaricata*), kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*), toe toe (*Cortaderia richardii*), and tutu (*Cortaria sarmentosa* and *C. kingiana*). A particularly good example of these forests exists in the mid-Cam River area and includes a spectacular grove of fierce lancewood.

Adjoining these low-forest communities, on rocky slopes and bluffs, is a more specialised Marlborough plant community dominated by *Brachyglottis monroi*, akiraho, Marlborough rock daisy, *Heliohebe hulkeana*, matagouri, *Coprosma propinqua*, *Carmichaella ovata*, prostrate broom (*Sophora prostrata*), *Aciphylla glaucescens*, *Gingidia montana*, *Exocarpus bidwillii*, *Helichrysum parvifolium*, *H. coralloides*, *Linum monogynum*, and pink broom.

Patches of kanuka forest are present at lower altitudes on the property, especially in the north-west, in the lower catchments of the Cam River and Isis Stream. Mature stands of this plant community, particularly on stream sides, include broadleaf, kohuhu, akiraho, lancewood, and ti tree. These communities grade into pure kanuka on dry upper slopes, and to shrublands dominated by *Coprosma propinqua*, matagouri, and *Carmichaella ovata*.

Forest remnants:

Mature forest remnants on the property are limited to small isolated patches of mountain totara or mountain beech on steep slopes in the headwaters of the Cam and Shln Rivers. Mountain totara remnants are the most common and widespread and exhibit the strongest regeneration and spread, especially at higher altitudes. Common species associated with mountain totara remnants are: mountain ribbonwood, snow totara, snow totara/mountain totara hybrids, celery pine, *Brachyglottis monroi*, mountain flax, and inaka. At lower altitudes manuka, broadleaf, and kohuhu are also associated with mountain totara.

Mountain beech remnants are confined to two small patches in the upper Cam River catchment. The understoreys of these remnants are typically bare, with obvious signs of animal browse and stock camps. Some regeneration is occurring at the forest margins, but it appears slow and sporadic. Associated with these beech remnants are: *Brachyglottis monroi*, mountain flax, snow totara, *Myrsine nummularia*, *Coprosma aff. pseudocuneata*, mountain wineberry, *Pittosporum anomalum*, *Aciphylla aurea*, and cotton daisy.

All forest remnants are surrounded by steep screes or bluffs which have presumably protected them from the fires that destroyed surrounding forests. Mountain totara is regenerating strongly, especially at lower altitudes, but beech regeneration is mostly

confined to the margins of the existing remnants. Williams (1989), in his study of the vegetation of the Inland Kalkoura Range south of the Shin catchment, records beech forest from only the eastern side of the range. The isolated beech patches on Camden are either atypical, or they indicate that beech forest was formerly the dominant forest type on the northern end of the range.

#### Rock Bluffs and Screens:

Rock bluffs and screens are limited in extent at lower altitudes on the property, but do support a number of distinctive species. Plant communities on stream side bluffs have been described above. The most important species on other bluffs are the: Marlborough rock daisy, sun hebe (*Hebe pentasepala*), *Hebe rupicola*, *Helichrysum coralloides*, *H. parvifolium*, *Scleranthus uniflorus*, *Olearia coriacea*, *Brachyglottis monroi*, *Ranunculus insignis*, *Gingidia montana*, *Coprosma acerosa* ssp. *brunnea*, *Chellanthes humilis*, and *Dichondra repens*.

The bluffs above the Shin, Cam and Isis are often part of the shrubland or forest remnant communities. The Marlborough pink broom is common on many of the bluffs.

Plants observed on screens were: *Lignocarpa diversifolia*, *Lobelia roughii*, penwiper (*Notothlaspi rosulatum*), *Epilobium pycnostachyum*, and *Myosotis traversii*. On stable scree margins common species are: *Blechnum penna-marina*, *Aciphylla monroi*, *Leptinella pyrethrifolia*, *Acaena dumicola*, *Poa lindsayi*, and *Hieracium lepidulum*.

#### Riverbeds:

The gravel-choked riverbeds of the Shin and Cam Rivers support a range of plant communities from open gravel plants to dense shrublands. Recent gravel beds and terraces are dominated by: creeping pohuehue (*Muehlenbeckia axillaris*), *Epilobium melanocaulon*, *E. microphyllum*, *E. brunnescens* ssp. *minutiflorum*, *Parahebe decora*, *Helichrysum depressum*, *Racoula australis*, *R. glabra*, silver tussock, woolly mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), viper's bugloss, mouse-ear hawkweed, haresfoot trefoil (*Trifolium arvense*), and male fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*).

More stable river bed sites support a thick shrubland dominated by tauhinu, matagouri, *Coprosma propinqua*, *Olearia odorata*, sweet brier, tutu (*Coriaria sarmentosa*), with occasional pink broom (in the Shin River). In the Isis Stream a large patch (c.20 plants) of the rare *Teucrium parvifolium* is present on small stable flats where the stream cuts through a narrow gorge. Terraces in the lower Shin and Cam contain small but significant populations of the fierce lancewood *Pseudopanax ferox*.

#### Wetlands and Flushes:

No wetlands of any significant size were observed on the property, though there are several flush and seepage areas, the most significant being in the upper Cam basin. Species recorded from these areas included: toe toe, *Carex virgata*, *C. secta*, *Schoenus pauciflorus*, soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), and native mint (*Mentha cunninghamii*).

#### Flora:

Over 450 species of native vascular plants and 125 introduced plants have been recorded from the Inland Kalkoura Range (Williams 1989). Many of these species are present on Camden, as the property spans a wide range of altitudes and landforms from alpine to



lowland. Several of the species present on the property are endemic to the south Marlborough area, notably: the Marlborough rock daisy (*Pachystegia insignis* agg.), the sun hebes (*Heliohebe pentasepala* and *H. hulkeana*), pink broom, *Olearia coriacea*, *Calmisia cockayneana*, and *Epilobium brevipes*.

Several other species on the property are rare or regionally-significant: *Teucrium parvifolium* (in Isis Stream); *Coprosma acerosa* ssp. *brunnea* (in the upper Cam River); healthy populations of pink broom (*Notospartium glabrescens*) in all major valleys; *Myosotis* "Mt Tapuae-O-Uenuku" on the slopes of Tapuae-O-Uenuku; and fierce lancewood (the best population in this part of Marlborough) in the mid-Cam River. Other endemic species, such as *Wahlenbergia cartilaginea* and *Heliohebe acuta* are likely to be present.

## 2.4 Fauna

### 2.4.1 Birds

Common bird species observed in forest or shrubland communities were: rifleman, brown creeper, bellbird, fantail, hedgesparrow, silvereye, blackbird, chaffinch, goldfinch, redpoll, and grey warbler. On open grasslands species observed were: skylark, NZ pipit, harrier, falcon, welcome swallow, yellowhammer, redpoll, greenfinch, magpie, and California quail. Other species recorded from the area during the Ornithological survey between 1969 and 1979, were black shag, paradise shelduck, kereru, tit, robin, song thrush, and tui (Bull et al, 1985). The most diverse bird populations were observed in the low forest communities adjacent to the major streams and in adjoining shrublands. These riparian plant communities appear to be sufficiently intact and diverse to support healthy good numbers of birds, and continuous enough to provide corridors of favourable bird habitat.

### 2.4.2 Lizards

Only the common skink (*Leiopisma nigriplantare polychroma*) and the common gecko (*Hoplodactylus maculatus*) were observed during the field inspection of the property, though the rare black-eyed gecko (*Hoplodactylus kahutarae*) (Brian Paton, pers.comm.) has been recorded from the area. Camden is one of only two sites outside the Seaward Kalkouras where the black-eyed gecko has been recorded. Other un-named lizard species have been recorded from the southern Marlborough area, making the herpetofauna one of the most diverse in the country (Courtney 1992).

### 2.4.3 Invertebrates

Several interesting native invertebrate species have been recorded from the area, including the giant scree weta (*Deinacrida connectens*) (Meads 1990), and alpine grasshoppers *Brachaspis nivalis* and *Paprdes nitidus* (Bigelow 1967). Giant dragonflies (*Uropetala carovel*) and cicadas have been observed and speargrass weevil sign, probably of the protected species *Lyperobius huttoni* has been noted in the Hodder Gorge area, downstream from the hut (J. Ravens, pers.comm.). Good invertebrate habitat in the lower- to mid- altitude country is almost entirely confined to riparian margins and associated steep, usually west-facing, sites. The best invertebrate habitats are in the Isis gorge area and in the lower Cam. Around the Isis gorge, fine actual and potential habitat exists in the riparian zone and extending in places to the ridgeline east of the gorge. Along the lower Cam, sites with excellent habitat are mainly confined to the southwest facing slopes on the true right.

Smaller sites with moderate to good habitat occur sporadically along the lower Isis, between the gorge and the road, and along the short section of stream below the road and above

the waterfall. Similarly, there is good riparian habitat along the Shin River, adjacent to lower Tongue Spur and along the upper Cam, above Cam hut. The large basin above the Cam Hut has a very impacted and eutrophied wetland along a small watercourse and some excellent stands of *Olearia odorata*, a species which usually harbours a distinctive and significant invertebrate fauna.

#### 2.4.4 Freshwater Fish

Six species of freshwater fish have been recorded from the property. *Galaxias vulgaris* and eels have been found in the Isis and *Galaxias vulgaris*, brown trout, upland bullies and long finned eels in the Cam. Torrent fish and koaro have been recorded in the Hodder and brown trout in the Shin. The presence of a number of diadromous (spend a regular part of their life cycle in the sea) species so far up the Awatere catchment is of interest.

#### 2.4.4 Introduced Animals

Feral goats are present in the Shin catchment and pigs are encountered occasionally throughout the property. Possum sign has been observed in shrublands and forest remnants. Rabbits, hares, cats, ferrets, hedgehogs, rats, and mice are also present.

### 2.5 History

Little is documented of the pre-European association with the Awatere Valley. In a recent publication dedicated by the Waitaha people, the journey of the Waka Arai Te Uru from Tahunanui (Nelson) to Te Paraunui a Whitu (the White Bluffs in Cloudy Bay) is described. The people paddled into the waters of the Wairau River Lagoon and built a village they called Te Waikawa o Omaka. They were guided on this journey by a large peak that reflected the sun's rays and which they later called Te Tapuwae o Uenuku - 'the stepping place of the Rainbow God' (Ngatapuwaē Trust 1994). Later, pounamu was brought to Te Waikawa o Omaka from the south via trails in the Waihopai or Awatere Valleys (ibid). Both the Awatere and the Clarence (Waiau-toa) Rivers are described as subsidiary pounamu trails by Brailsford (1984).

The first occupier of the Camden Run was Henry Godfrey who was granted a depasturage licence for about 7700 hectares between the Isis and Hodder rivers, including the summit of Tapuae-O-Uenuku, in 1850 (Kennington 1978). He named this area the Hodder Run and installed R. McMurdo and G. Hodgkinson as managers and then, in 1853, as lessees. In 1856 Godfrey leased the run to the Williams brothers, who in 1858 were the first lessees of the Otley Fells (Bluff) Run on the other side of the Inland Kaikoura Range (ibid).

Godfrey sold the Hodder Run to Philip McRae in 1862 and the run's name changed to Camden. The property was surrendered in 1887 and passed to the Assets Board in 1896 (ibid). The lease was again purchased from the Crown in 1903 and had four owners between 1903 and 1934. I.H. Cameron held the lease between 1934 and 1962 and E.L. and J.L. Peter held it to 1966 when it was sold to the present lessee, F.W. Prouting. In 1962, 196 hectares were surrendered to form part of Tapuae-O-Uenuku Scenic Reserve.

The present lessees, Frank and Shelley Prouting, have farmed the property since 1966. The only buildings on the property are concentrated around the homestead and airstrip, except for Cam Hut in the mid-Cam Valley. A mustering hut in the Shin Valley was destroyed by fire and not replaced, as mustering of the 'back' block is now undertaken from the Cam Hut. No buildings on the property are sufficiently old or unusual to warrant protection for their historic character.



## 2.6 Public Recreation

### 2.6.1 Physical Characteristics

The run rises steeply from the valley floor to the mountains. The three valley catchments of the Isis Stream, the Cam River and the Hodder River contain the majority of the property. There are prominent ridges running down from the mountain backbone to the valley floor and the waterways, although incised at times, are generally able to be walked through. Farm tracks wind their way up the Isis and Cam to give access to the lower half of the property.

### 2.6.2 Legal Access

The public road up the Awatere valley provides access to the property and traverses the northern boundary of the run close to the Awatere River. The Awatere Valley Road is within the legal roadline. There is also a legal roadline following the Awatere river for the length of the property, apart from 2 small places where marginal strips occur.

A legal roadline follows the Isis Stream to the 900m asl contour. A legal roadline also follows the true right bank of the Hodder River all the way along the western boundary of the property.

Marginal strips have been laid off along both banks of the Cam River from the northern boundary up to the 900m asl contour. Marginal strips also follow the Shin River from its junction with the Hodder River to the 1200m asl contour.

### 2.6.3 Activities

The most significant public use of Camden is by trampers and climbers using the Hodder Valley on the western boundary of the property. The route up the Hodder is the most popular access to the Inland Kaikoura Range and especially to Mounts Tapuae-O-Uenuku, Alarm, and Mitre. While the route mostly follows the Hodder riverbed, it crosses Camden where it climbs away from the river to side a gorge and waterfall at about the timberline in the upper valley. Also, the route to Mt Tapuae-O-Uenuku, Mt Alarm, and Pinnacle traverses Camden up Staircase Stream, or up the slopes directly opposite the Hodder Huts. The lower Shin River, and Tongue Spur, are occasionally traversed by climbers (FMC, pers.comm.) and provide an interesting alternative to the route up the Hodder. The major peaks of the Inland Kaikoura Range are the only high alpine peaks in the South Island that are outside the main Southern Alps. They provide the closest alpine climbing opportunities for people in Marlborough and Wellington.

Use of other parts of Camden by trampers is apparently low, though the property receives regular use by hunters. The lessees frequently receive requests for access from pig hunters and these requests are rarely refused (Frank and Shelley Prouting, pers.comm.). The control of pigs and goats by recreational hunters is considered by the Proutings to be an integral part of the management of the property. Hunters often use the station hut in the Cam River. Recreational horse trekking, four-wheel-driving, and mountain biking do not occur on the property at present.

The interest in the main peaks of the Inland Kaikoura Range, and the presence of the Hodder Huts, has focused most recreational use of the area on the Hodder Valley area. However, an outdoor recreation planning study in Marlborough in the 1970s acknowledged

the potential of the area for backcountry recreation and recommended that better access be provided for resource-based recreation in the Awatere Valley (Department of Lands and Survey 1977). Representatives of Federated Mountain Clubs and the Marlborough Tramping Club (pers.comm.) consider that there is considerable potential for interesting tramping trips in the northern part of the Inland Kaikoura Range, including a traverse from the Awatere to the Mead (via Isis Stream) and ascents of Mt McRae and Mt Camden. This would provide the most practical access to the Mead Conservation Area, for which there is no practical legal access except for a marginal strip up the Mead River (including waterfalls) on the east of the range.

### PART 3: CONSULTATION AND OTHER PLANS

#### 3.1 Consultation

In September 1995 there was some discussion with NGOs on the initial proposals for Camden. Emphasised in these discussions was the need to protect the threatened species on the property from grazing, the high scenic value of the Isis Stream adjacent to the road and the need to provide access up the waterways.

As a result of the reintroduction of the property to the tenure review programme in 2001 a meeting was held with NGOs in September 2001. At this meeting the following comments were made:

- The Hodder River is the main access onto Tapuae-o-Uenuku. 500-600 people per year in the hut books at the 2 Hodder Huts.
- Hunters use the Hodder Huts and Cam Hut. They hunt for goats, pigs, chamois and some deer. There is good quail hunting in the Cam.
- Stock movement across the Hodder and Shin not much of a problem because of the gorges present.
- The Hodder/Shin Saddle loop is popular. There is also regular use of Tongue Spur.
- Area with fierce lancewood in middle Cam outside original report's recommendations worthy of protection.
- Walk up Cam River to Cam Hut good.
- Good totara in basin above Cam Hut.
- Climb on to Camden from upper Cam Basin worthwhile.
- Good walk up track beside Isis.
- Meeting place of the different pink broom species important.
- Bluff wetas and black-eyed gheckos in upper part interesting.
- Amethysts present around Staircase Stream and Mt Alarm.

In a written submission the Federated Mountain Clubs called for the surrender and transfer to the public conservation estate of all areas generally above the 1000m contour. They also requested the securing of year-round public rights of practical access along the Hodder River, public access via Tongue Spur to the inland Kaikoura Range, foot access along the 4wd track west of the Isis River and protection of the significant areas of indigenous riparian vegetation along Isis Stream, and the Cam, Shin, Hodder and Awatere rivers.

#### 3.2 District Plans (Matters of National Importance)

Under the proposed Walraui/Awatere Resource Management Plan, publicly notified in November 1997, the station falls within the Rural 4 Zone. Under this zoning farming, keeping domestic livestock and homestays are permitted activities. Commercial forestry is

permitted on land below the 1000m contour. Erection of further accommodation buildings is restricted to one dwellinghouse/title.

### 3.3 Conservation Management Strategies

The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy includes Camden in the South Marlborough management unit. Relevant objectives in this unit include:

- Obtain legal protection for threatened species habitat and important plant communities.
- Land status review of Inland Marlborough conservation areas and reserves.
- Maintain access and facilities for recreational hunting.

## PART 4

### 4.1 Maps

- 4.1.1 Cadastral (Attached)
- 4.1.2 Landscape Units (Attached)
- 4.1.3 Values (Attached)

### 4.2 Acknowledgements

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