



Castlepoint Scenic Reserve

Area: 59.7 ha

7

3



CASTLEPOINT SCENIC RESERVE (PROPOSED)		GRID REF N 159 665680
for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scenery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bush <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scrub tussock etc <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wetland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> animals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> geology soil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> history prehistory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> water supply		
LOCATION Castlepoint is on the Wairarapa Coast, 48 km east of Masterton.		AREA ha xx 59.7 L.D. No. Section 1047, Block X Castlepoint S.D. STATUS Reserve for purpose of general government - proposed scenic RES sub-Ctee
ACCESS By road from Masterton, to the end of Jetty Road at Castlepoint township, then informal access across the sand. There is a boardwalk from Jetty Rd to the light house		CONTROL Masterton County Council
OUTLINE & TOPO. The reserve consists of the Castlepoint promontory at the south end of the bay. The northern-most land tip features the Castlepoint Lighthouse. The limestone ridge then dips down to form a linear reef which shelters a tidal lagoon. The entrance to this natural harbour is at the southern end at the base of the hill and bluffs called The Castle (162m). Sand overlies rock between the mainland and the lighthouse promontory to form the tombola. Low scrub, tussock and herbfield vegetation are distributed patchily on land surfaces; exotics are planted on western dunes.		GAZETTED 1876, 1898, 1957, 1971 RESERVED
SURROUNDINGS The land to the west of the reserve is the pasture covered hillsides of Castlepoint Station. Castlepoint beach sweeps around to the west of the lighthouse		HISTORY
GEOLOGY The only exposed beds of fossiliferous limestone on the Wairarapa coast. The coastal hills are a fault complex consisting of limestone breccia, sandstone beds of coquina limestone and minor conglomerate, and mudstone/siltstone.		AIR PHOTO SN 8224 date 2.5.83.
SPM Mudstone with bentonitic clay, limestone and banded sandstone.		nearby town Masterton nearest reserve Pongaroa S.R. public road Masterton-Castlepoint Road sea (km) 0
SOIL Mangatea clay loam, Wainstead clay loam, Bluff loam.		ALTITUDE m xx 0-163m
DRAINAGE Very good.		ASPECT E-W RAIN mm xx 903 (approx) NAT FERTILITY Low

RES	NOT	MAIN HABITATS and FEATURES	%	area	native		ex	regen	NAT	trend	exotics
					1°	2° ind					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Stunted coastal bush of kanuka, kawakawa, ngaio, poroporo, toetoe, flax, etc.	14.9	8.9			M	H			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Open tussock/scrub of silver tussock, <i>Senecio compactus</i> , taupata, flax, <i>Scirpus nodosus</i> .	18.1	10.8			L	H			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Herbfields on steep bluffs of iceplant, pimpernel, daisy, etc.	1.0	0.6			L	H			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Talus slope vegetation of grasses, flax, <i>Senecio</i> , native celery, iceplant, etc.	9.2	5.5			M	H			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Stable ledges on The Castle with tussock, grass, iceplant, taupata.	2.8	1.7			M	H			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Small area of <i>Poa</i> on the lighthouse promontory.	0.2	0.1			M	H			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. Marram grass on sand dunes.	2.5	1.5			L	M			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8. Pasture	20.6	12.3			M	L			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9. Pine plantation	1.8	1.1			L				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10. Bare rock-bare ground	7.4	4.4							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11. Sand, to mean low tide level.	20.9	12.5							
			99.4	59.4							

CONDITION Generally good, with few exotic weeds. With removal of stock, the erosion problem should improve. Human interferences are generally restricted to localised controllable areas.

FENCING Fencing of the NW boundary is incomplete and is required for stock removal from the reserve.

PRIORITY High.

RATING 0-10

SCIENTIFIC ..7.. Rare and endangered plants, breeding gull colonies, coastal vegetation not reserved elsewhere in Wairarapa.

SCENIC ..8..

RECREATION ..8.. Fishing, swimming, picnicking, walking.

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS This is a reserve where recreational interests are not in direct conflict with the scientific interests due to the nature of the terrain.

Existing problems in the reserve are accelerated erosion, traffic congestion and destruction or littering of natural features. Erosion is evident at the northern part of the reef and on the crush zone of the Castle where bedding is exposed, and it has been aggravated by stock movement and human trampling. Removal of stock and possibly appropriate planting undertaken with expert supervision could improve the situation. The sand-dunes have suffered from trail-bikes and excessive pedestrian use. A sign advising the public of potential damage and attempts at rehabilitation could help with this problem. *Senecio compactus* depends on natural erosion, so any erosion controls must not interfere with natural processes. Fortunately, most of the areas of highest sensitivity are inaccessible. Pines around the carpark are a potential problem but these will be harvested when mature. Control of hares and rabbits is difficult to effect but we can monitor their level of interference with endangered and rare species to determine what action is necessary. Parking needs to be restricted to outside the reserve with temporary parking on the beach and by the toilets, to avoid past congestion problems. No further public facilities should be developed without careful consideration of criteria designed to minimise detracton from the scenic and scientific value of this reserve, keeping in mind that it is a particularly sensitive but well used reserve.

¹ NATURALNESS ² TREND: D deteriorating; S steady; I improving

- The Castle was first seen and named by Captain Cook, 11 February 1770. In 1643 William Colenso named the lagoon "Deliverance Cove" after landing there in a storm. Early farming concerns used Castlepoint as a wool trading port. Now the harbour is used for commercial and recreational fishing and pleasure boating. The lagoon provides anchorage in NW winds but has limited protection in southerlies. At present ten commercial boats operate from the reserve.
- The reserve is regularly visited by educational study groups for a range of subjects, in particular geology, biology and archaeology. The public facilities provided are toilets, a path along the sand-dunes to the reef, and the boardwalk across the tombola to the Lighthouse which is maintained by agreement of the Ministry of Transport.
- The Castle is subject to severe erosion where the more stable beds of sandstone and mudstone have been crushed and folded next to the limestone (excellent examples of bedding are exposed). The erosion problem has been increased by overuse by visitors and removal of vegetation. The area has been used for grazing. Excessive use has also promoted erosion along the top of the reef. Trail bikes in the sand dunes have accelerated de-vegetation and sand erosion there also.
- The reserve is the type locality for the rare species *Senecio compatus*, as yet not found elsewhere. Other plants of interest here are *Coprosma acerosa* (less abundant due to sand habitat modification), *Tetragonia trigyna* (NZ coastal spinach) and the native carrot *Daucus glochidiatus*. The seaward slopes have never been modified due to their steepness, so are botanically the most interesting.
- 38 species of birds have been recorded at Castlepoint including 20 native sea birds and 6 native land birds. Red-billed Gull, White-fronted Tern, Black-backed Gull, Black Shag and Blue Heron from colonies on the reef and cliffs.
- Castlepoint is the most popular resort beach on the Wairarapa Coast with high numbers of visitors during summer. In late March the Castlepoint Races are held on the beach, an annual event that was first held 40 years ago. The most popular activities are fishing, swimming and surfing, none of which are recommended along the reef due to very dangerous sea and wind conditions. Since 1949 there have been 33 drownings recorded.
- The shelter-belt of pine trees along the western boundary was planted before it was realised permission was required from Lands and Survey to do so. Although it provides a pleasant picnicking and camping area, it is not in accordance with scenic reserve policy.

Biological Society of Victoria University of Wellington, 1965. Castlepoint Survey, 2nd Report.
 Department of Lands and Survey, 1980. Castlepoint Scenic Reserve Draft Management Plan, Management Plan Series, No. SR6.
 Johnston, 1973. Geology of Castlepoint Headland and Reef, Wairarapa, New Zealand, NZJGG 16 (4).
 Park, G.M. 1967. The Vegetation of Castlepoint and Cape Turnagain, Bull. Wellington Botanical Society 34.

REFERENCES

% area	SUMMARY	HABITATS												ORGANISMS																		
		WATER / SHORE			veg			substrate			pollution			access			INFER				OBSERVED											
		large	small	several	fill/cut/stable	overhang	emergent	herb	cliff	rock	stony	s-shingle	mud	organic	rubbish	eutrophic	foot	boat	car	a - adjoins reserve	N	S	M	N	L	M	H	initials				
15	tall conifer ¹ forest/trees																															
27	conifer ² forest/trees																															
✓	beech forest/trees																															
✓	BL ³ forest/trees																															
✓	scrub/shrubs <6m																															
✓	tall tussocks/grassland																															
✓	short tussocks/grassland																															
✓	grassland/grasses																															
✓	sedge/land/sedges																															
1	rushland/rushes/raupo																															
3	herbland/herbs																															
3	"tussock" herbland ⁴																															
	fernland/ferns																															
	"moss" land																															
	bracken																															
21	exotic grassland ⁵																															
2	exotic herbland/woodland																															
2	exotic scrub/shrubs																															
2	exotic forest/trees																															
	introduced "native" cover																															
	bag/swamp/pakihi																															
	marsh sw/fw																															
	mudflat sw/fw																															
7	bluff/rocks																															
✓	bluffs/rocks in bush																															
✓	waterfall																															
✓	cave/gorge																															
✓	gravel habitat/scree																															
21	dune/sand																															
✓	limestone																															
✓	ultrabasics																															
✓	geological site																															
✓	braoding ground																															
✓	rare/interesting animals																															
✓	rare/interesting plants																															
	historic site																															
	historic building																															
	prehistoric site																															
	camp /midden/pits																															
	terraces/earthworks																															
	burial/tapu																															
97																																

¹ tall conifer. kahikatea, kauri, matai, miro, rimu, totara ² remaining 11 tree-sized spp ³ broadleaved ⁴ e.g. flax ⁵ incl. rough grassland, pasture etc

Castlepoint
Wassileff, Clark + Galiter 1986

S.T. Plants

NATIVE SPECIES

Trees and shrubs

Cassinia leptophylla ✓
Coprosmma acerosa ✓
C. repens
Cordyline australis

Grasses, rushes and like plants

Carex sp.
Cortaderia toetoe
Deyeuxia billardieri
Juncus caespiticius
J. maritimus
Lachnagrostis sp.

Herbs

Apium australe
Calystegia soldanella
Carpobrotus edulis
Dichondra repens
Disphyma australe
Geranium molle
G. sessiliflorum
Gnaphalium collinum (agg.)
G. luteo-illum
Haloragis erecta
Lagenophora pumila

Ferns and allies

Adiantum cunninghamii
Asplenium flaccidum
A. oblongifolium (= A. lucidum)

Bromus sp.
buck's-horn plantain
buffalo grass
catsear
chickweed

Native

banded totterel
black oystercatcher
black-backed gull
blue heron
Buller's shearwater
Cape pigeon
Caspian tern
fluttering shearwater
gannet

Introduced

blackbird
California quail
chaffinch
goldfinch

Coriaria arborea
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Hebe stricta var. macroura
Macropipier excelsum

Notodanthonia racemosa
N. unarede
Poa anceps var. condensata
P. anceps var. anceps
P. caespitosa

Linum monogynum
Lobelia anceps
Microseris scapigera (agg.) ✓
Microtis unifolia
Oxalis sp.
Phormium cookianum
P. tenax
Pimelea arenaria ? south
P. prostrata
Ranunculus acaulis
Salicornia australis

Blechnum banksii ✓
Microsorium diversifolium
Phymatosorus diversifolius

EXOTIC SPECIES

clover
elder
haretail
horehound
marram grass

BIRDS

giant petrel
greywarbler
harrier
kingfisher
pied fantail
pied oystercatcher
pied shag
pied stilt

hedgesparrow
housesparrow
mallard
skylark

Myoporum laetum
Olearia solandri
Solanum aviculare
S. nigrum

Puccinellia stricta
Scirpus nodosus
S. cernuus
Spinifex hirsutus ✓ 16/12/99
Zoysia minima

Samolus repens
Senecio compactus
S. lautus
S. sp.
Spergularia media
Tetragonia trigyna
Thelymitra longifolia
Vittadinia australis
Wahlenbergia gracilis (agg.)
W. marginata

Polystichum richardii
Pyrosia serpens

oxtail
plantain
Tasmanian ngaio
tree lupin

pipit
red-billed gull
silveryeye
sooty shearwater
wandering albatross
white-faced heron
white-fronted tern
white-throated shag

songthrush
starling
white-backed magpie
yellowhammer

NATIVE SPECIES

Trees and shrubs

Cassinia leptophylla
Coprosma acerosa
C. repens
Cordyline australis

Coriaria arborea
Corynocarpus laevigatus
Hebe stricta var. *macroura*
Macropiper excelsum

Myoporum laetum
Olearia solandri
Solanum aviculare
S. nigrum

Grasses, rushes and like plants

Carex sp.
Cortaderia toetoe
Deyeuxia billardieri
Juncus caespiticius
J. maritimus
Lachnagrostis sp.

Notodanthonia racemosa
N. unarede
Poa anceps var. *condensata*
P. anceps var. *anceps*
P. caespitosa

Puccinellia stricta
Scirpus nodosus
S. cernuus
Spinifex hirsutus
Zoysia minima

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Calystegia soldanella
Carpobrotus edulis
Dichondra repens
Disphyma australe
Geranium molle
G. sessiliflorum
Gnaphalium collinum (agg.)
G. luteo-album
Haloragis erecta
Lagenophora pumila

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Phymatosorus diversifolius

Polystichum richardii
Pyrrhosia serpens

EXOTIC SPECIES

Bromus sp.
buck's-horn plantain
buffalo grass
catsear
chickweed

clover
elder
harestalk
horehound
marram grass

oxtail
plantain
Tasmanian ngaio
tree lupin

BIRDS

Native

banded dotterel
black oystercatcher
black-backed gull
blue heron
Buller's shearwater
Cape pigeon
Caspian tern
fluttering shearwater
gannet

giant petrel
greywarbler
harrier
kingfisher
pied fantail
pied oystercatcher
pied shag
pied stilt

pipit
red-billed gull
silveryeye
sooty shearwater
wandering albatross
white-faced heron
white-fronted tern
white-throated shag

Introduced

blackbird
Californian quail
chaffinch
goldfinch

hedgesparrow
housesparrow
mallard
skylark

songthrush
starling
white-backed magpie
yellowhammer

