

Name:	Upper Pohangina River	
Location:	NZ Topo BL35 & BL36	
Description:	An area of native forest adjacent to the Pohangina River.	
ONL/ONF/SAF:	Outstanding Natural Feature	
Natural Science:	Geological/ Geomorphological:	Erosion process of the river is evident through the creation of a river valley and terrace.
	Biological/Ecological:	Large stretch of indigenous flora and fauna habitat representative of what would have once been throughout the Pohangina Valley and reflective of the area's mauri. Vegetation is dominated by kahikatea forest in the wetter areas and tōtara forest in the drier areas. In parts these kahikatea are mature and large in size, kahikatea of this size are rare. The Pohangina River is considered to have a valuable trout fishery resource as well as a number of native fish species including bullies, kōkopu, brown mudfish and eels. Pohangina River provides educational opportunities, including the study of macroinvertebrate and physiochemical river composition studies (such an investigation by students at Piripiri was led by freshwater ecology scientist Dr Alex James through the PTC Trust).
	Hydrological:	Indigenous forest cover protects water quality, enhancing ecosystem health and mauri of the water. The Pohangina River is one of the Manawatū River's main tributaries. The river originates in the western foothills of the Ruahine Range and flows close to the range until it merges with the Manawatū River at the western end of Te Āpiti.
Perceptual:	Memorability:	Area has high memorability as a large stand of dense indigenous vegetation adjacent to the braided Pohangina River. Bold form of the Podocarp trees rising up out of the native bush is striking.
	Legibility/Expressiveness:	The extent of indigenous vegetation is sufficient to be clearly legible as a remnant forest area typical of that which would have once been predominant throughout the Pohangina Valley.
	Transient:	Fluctuations in river level and some flooding is likely. Transient values related to fauna of the forest. Pohangina Valley tends to get a lot of cloud and has its own microclimate, being close to the foothills of the Ruahine Range, thus, the very climate itself gives a separate identity to the area.
	Aesthetic:	High aesthetic appeal due to the extent of unmodified indigenous vegetation along the margin of the river which provides a high sense of coherence and reinforces its vividness both as a feature and in contrast to the surrounding modified landscape which results in a high scenic quality.
	Naturalness:	High degree of degree of perceived naturalness within the defined ONF exhibited by the vegetation cover which typically extends from the river's edge to the top of the first river escarpment.
Associational:	Historical:	Surrounding area was cleared for farming and timber, meaning this area has value in being a remnant of what vegetation once covered the region.
	Tangata Whenua:	Under the Settlement Act, the Upper Pohangina River is an area of interest for both Ngāti Apa and Rangitāne o Manawatū. Ngāti Kahungunu are also acknowledged under the Settlement Act and Ōroua Declaration in relation to the area. During the 19th century Māori occupation sites along the Pohangina River were frequent. The river provided plentiful supplies of food sources (particularly eels) as well as easily navigable routes. Dense surrounding forest also supplied quantities of birds and berries. Rangitāne o Manawatū traditionally collected hinau, rata and hebe berries for food resources, along with other selected native trees. The Pohangina River is of historical, cultural, spiritual and traditional significance to Rangitāne o Manawatū. Through Rangitāne o Manawatū traditions such as waiata, korero and whakairo. A battle occurred between Rangitāne o Manawatū and a neighbouring iwi who crossed the Ruahine Range via Te Ahu a Turanga and entered the Pohangina Valley. The battle was known as "Te Wai Whakatane o Ngāti Kahungunu," which translates to the battle title "the water where the blood of Ngāti Kahungunu was made to flow". The area and river mean 'ulcerated night', 'Po' meaning night and 'hanga' meaning ulcerated. This suggests that the valley had been a place where bloodshed had occurred between Rangitāne o Manawatū and their enemies. Thus, this was a place of darkness and there was a degree of fear attached to the area because of bloodshed. The second level of meaning was the very ulcerated or dissected nature of the landscape itself, lots of little streams with valleys cutting down in to the area.
	Shared/Recognised:	The river runs along the Manawatū Scenic Route, which is an alternative to SH1 and allows travellers to discover stunning scenery.
	Recreation:	Public walking tracks and camping grounds contained within the reserve. Within the ONF there is the DOC Pohangina Base and Piripiri campsites. There is good trout fishing and hunting upstream of the Piripiri campsite. A scenic four-wheel drive opportunity is also available on the nearby Takapari Road. At the southern end of the ONF there is the DOC 'Kahikatea Walk' which provides an easy walking opportunity, that is suitable for both young and old, to experience the broad-leaf forest.

Summary of Key Characteristics:	Landform with an extensive indigenous forest from the valley floor to the top of the river terrace. Composition of the vegetated escarpments adjacent to the watercourse hold high levels of perceived naturalness, which contrasts with the surrounding productive farmland. Pohangina Valley East Road passes through the area, as does have a pole transmission line.
Potential Issues:	<p>The extent of native vegetation and enclosure within the valley defines the feature and contributes to the perceived naturalness, aesthetic values and associational factors. It would assist protection of the key characteristics if the following were to occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• discourage the loss of native vegetation; discourage the establishment of exotic vegetation; discourage adverse effects on cultural values; discourage earthworks; and restrict built development.

ONFL9 - Outstanding Natural Feature - Upper Pohangina River

