

# 2 Important Areas for New Zealand Seabirds

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## Sites on Land

Rivers, estuaries, coastal  
lagoons & harbours



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# IMPORTANT AREAS FOR NEW ZEALAND SEABIRDS



This document has been prepared for Forest & Bird by Chris Gaskin, IBA Project Coordinator (NZ).

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## Contributors

The following individuals have contributed to the profiles in this document in a variety of ways, including supply of data and information about seabirds, and reviewing draft material, site profiles, species lists and site maps.

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Cover design: Danielle McBride, Paradigm Associates, Auckland

Front cover: Rachel McLellan (Black-billed Gulls), Craig McKenzie (Black-fronted Tern)

Back cover: Frederic Pelsy (Ahuriri River)

Recommended citation: Forest & Bird (2016). *New Zealand Seabirds: Sites on Land, Rivers, estuaries, coastal lagoons & harbours*. The Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand.

NZ057	Pegasus Bay Coast (3 sites)	Canterbury
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Location	New Zealand, Canterbury
Central coordinates	43.275581°S, 172.721987°E (Ashley Estuary), 43.391577°S, 172.702589°E (Brooklands Lagoon), 43.541642°S, 172.727652°E (Avon-Heathcote)
IBA criteria	A1, A4ii, (A4iii)
Area	476 ha (Ashley Estuary), 749 ha (Brooklands Lagoon), 1,275 ha (Avon/Heathcote)
Altitude	0 - 5m
Year of Assessment	2013

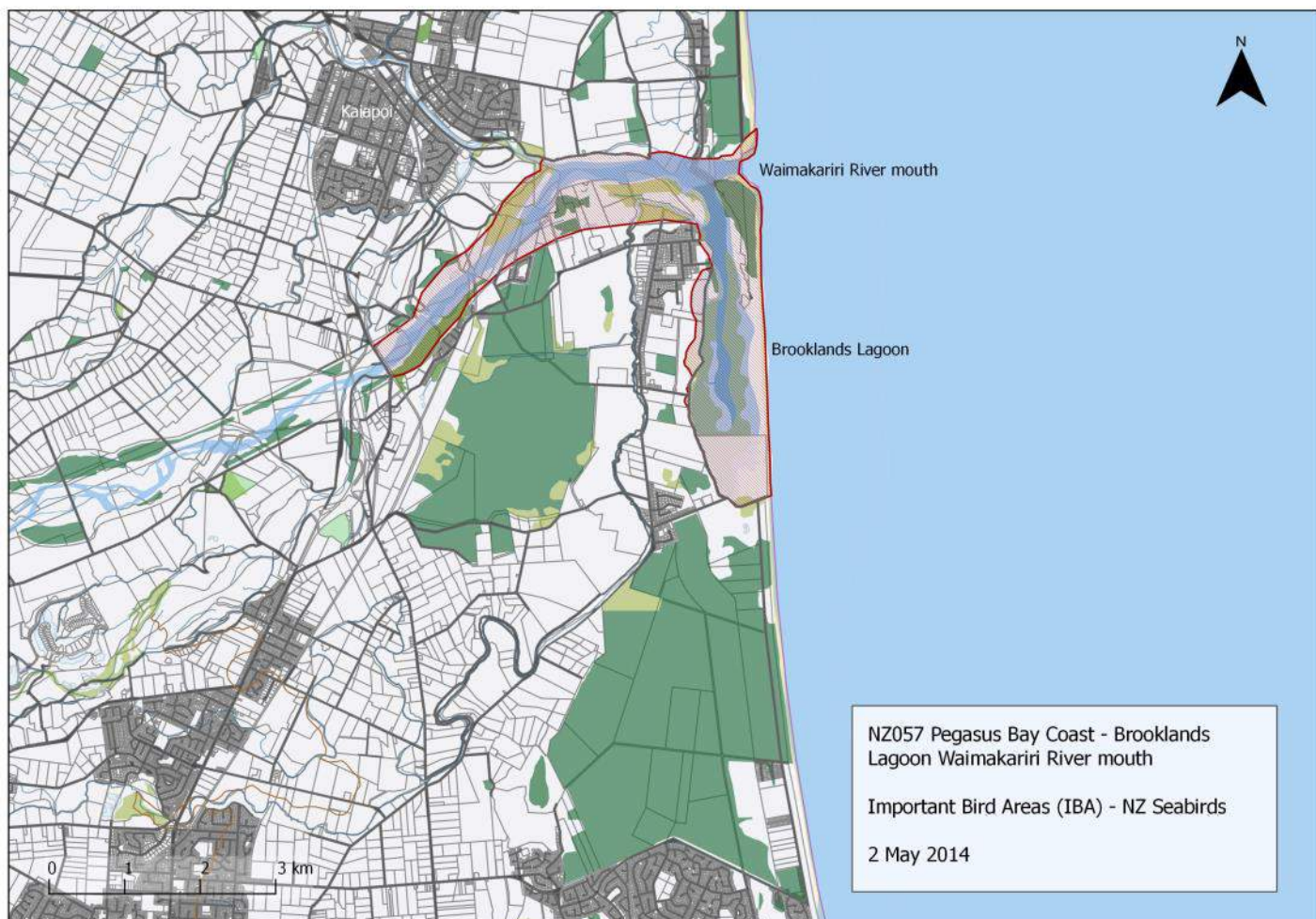
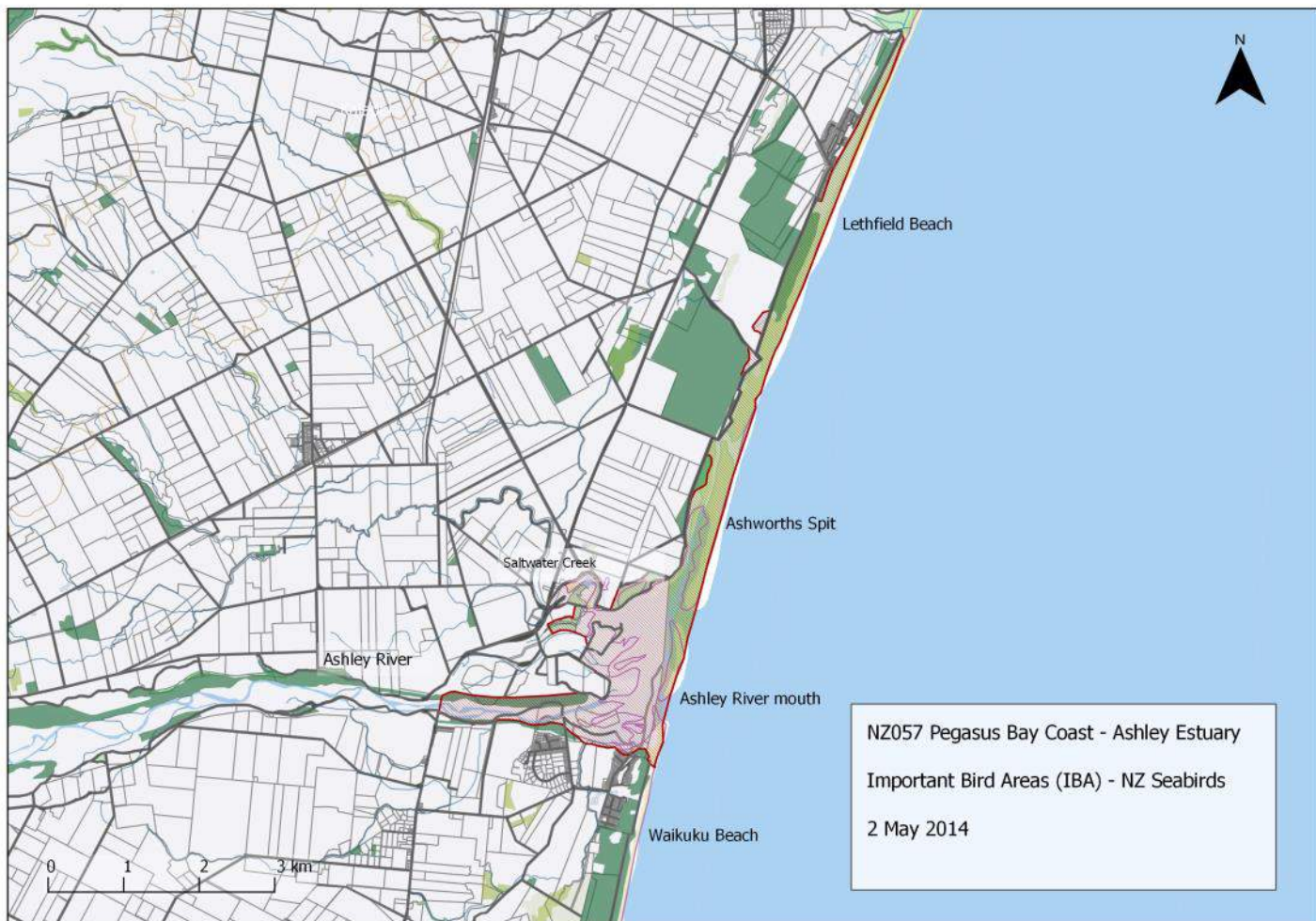
**Populations of IBA trigger species:**

Species	Season	Period	Population estimate	IBA criteria	IUCN cat.	NZ Threat Class.
Black-billed Gull	Breeding & non-breeding	1999-2010	732-1,000 (individuals)	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Critical
Black-fronted Tern	Non-breeding	2000-2014	120-260 (individuals)	A1, A4i	EN	Nationally Vulnerable
Black Stilt	Non-breeding	2009-2013	1-2 (individuals)	A1	CR	Nationally Critical
Wrybill	Non-breeding	1999-2013	14-50 (individuals)	A1	VU	Nationally Vulnerable
Australasian Bittern	Resident		Present	A1	EN	Nationally Endangered
South Island Pied Oystercatcher	Non-breeding		3,208-4,562 (individuals)	A4i	LC	At Risk - Declining
<i>Species group - waterbirds</i>			More than 20,000 individuals			

**Ornithological information:** Besides the trigger species the following species are confirmed or likely to be breeding: Australasian Crested Grebe, Black Shag, Little Black Shag, Little Shag, White-faced Heron, Mute Swan, Black Swan, Canada Goose, Paradise Shelduck, NZ Shoveler, Mallard, Grey Duck, Grey Teal, Black Scaup, Australasian Harrier, Californian Quail, Pheasant, Little Owl, Pukeko, Marsh Crake, Spotless Crake, Variable Oystercatcher, Pied Stilt, Banded Dotterel, Black-fronted Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Southern Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, White-fronted Tern, NZ Pigeon, NZ Kingfisher, Shining Cuckoo, Welcome Swallow, NZ Pipit, Grey Warbler, South Island Fantail, Silvereye, Skylark, Hedge Sparrow, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Cirl Bunting, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Redpoll, House Sparrow Starling, Australian Magpie.

Other species recorded: Australian Little Grebe, Spotted Shag, White Heron, Reef Heron, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Royal Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Australian Coot, Pacific Golden Plover, Large Sand Plover, NZ Dotterel (SI) (EN), Mongolian Dotterel, Red-capped Dotterel, Grey Plover, Turnstone, Red (Lesser) Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Asiatic Dowitcher, Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit, Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Wandering Tattler, Siberian Tattler, Sanderling, Far-eastern Curlew, Whimbrel, Greenshank, Terek Sandpiper, White-winged Black Tern, Gull-billed Tern, Little Tern, Bellbird.









Protected area	Designation	Relationship with IBA
Pacific Ocean Foreshore	Conservation Area	Protected area overlaps with site
Ashley River Mouth	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Ashley River	Conservation Area	Protected area contained within site
Reference Christchurch City Council Parks		

IUCN Habitat	Habitat detail	Extent (% of site)
Marine Neritic (Submergent Nearshore)	Estuaries	Major
Marine Intertidal	Sandy and Shingle Shoreline/Beaches and Spits; Intertidal Mud Flats	Major
Marine Coastal/Supratidal	Coastal Brackish Lagoons	Major
Wetlands (inland)	Swamps	Major
Introduced Vegetation	Broom, gorse, pasture grasses & rank weeds	Major
Shrubland	Saltmarsh ribbowood	Minor
Artificial - Aquatic	Wastewater Treatment Areas	Minor

## Threats to the site (pressure) - IUCN Classifications

Threat Level	Notes	Timing	Scope	Severity
Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases	Invasive alien species - mustelids, cats, rats, hedgehogs	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration
Human intrusions and disturbance	Recreational activities by estuary, beach and river users - includes dogs.	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Biological resource use	Hunting - intentional use (waterfowl - seasonal); Persecution	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Natural system modifications	Water management/use - abstraction of ground water (agricultural use)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Pollution	Agricultural & forestry effluents - nutrient loads (lakes and rivers)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Pollution	Domestic & urban waste water - run-off	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Natural system modifications	Weed encroachment on nesting sites (rivers)	Happening now	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Slow but significant deterioration
Climate change and severe weather	Floods	Likely in short term (within 4 years)	Some of area/ population (10-49%)	Moderate to rapid deterioration

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Front: Rachel McClellan, Craig McKenzie