

South Bay/Ocean Ridge Forest

This stretch of reserve is located in the South Bay area, across the road from the Ocean Ridge subdivision and Kaikōura Golf Course. It is an area of approximately 16,7719m² (16.7719ha) that was established as a reserve under New Zealand Gazette in 2008, page 2295 under section 60(2) of the Transit New Zealand Act 1989. The site extends from around the Kowhai River Mouth to the intersection of SH1 into South Bay.

The site is all zoned as General Rural site, the western half being classed as a non-urban flood assessment area. Furthermore, there are archaeological sites within the smaller margins of the site.

Currently, there is a lime chip pathway from South Bay to the Kowhai River. The western half of the site is covered in pine forest, that is closely planted together. It is common for the site to be used for walking pets, bike and other motorized riding or accessing the beach. It is also known that Banded Dotterels nest in the low vegetation at the beach.

The pine trees are growing tall, to a point where they can be dangerous in weather events, and potentially blown over onto the road or over powerlines. It is intended that the trees here will be harvested in 2024. The council is interested to hear what the public would like to see in the future for uses of this area.

