872551

Walls of Jerusalem

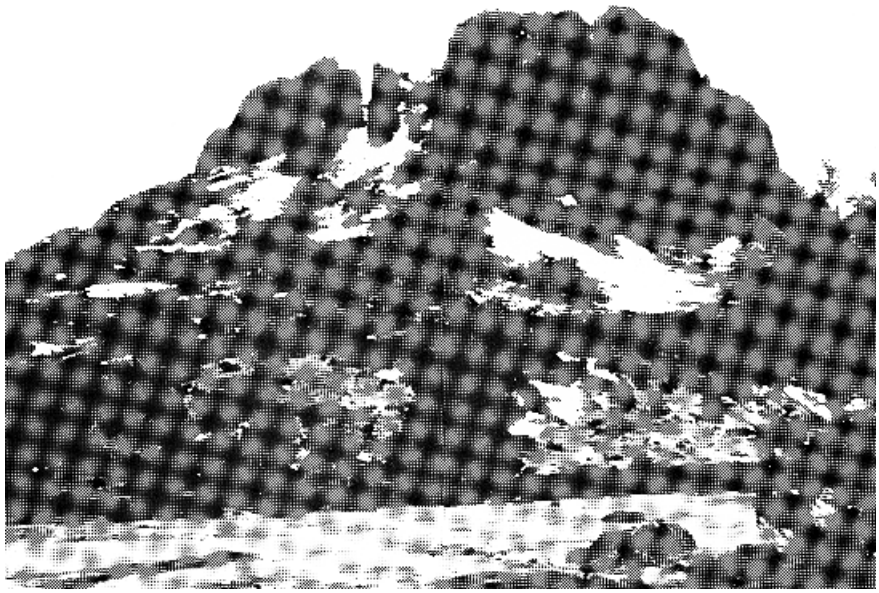
Examples of this land system occur in the vicinity of the Walls of Jerusalem in the west of the study area, and the Labyrinth in the extreme west, which is part of the Du Cane Range. These are rugged, mountainous areas with numerous lakes and high peaks that once stood as nunutaks above surrounding ice caps. Cliff faces often have well developed columnar jointing while steep slopes are mantled with boulders which often concentrate to the extent of forming extensive (boulder) deposits. Although this land system is part of the higher plateau surface its lower components occur at a slightly lower elevation, while Mount Jerusalem and the Walls of Jerusalem are two distinctive features which protrude well above this surface.

Most poorly drained areas are likely to be covered by organic soils. These probably extend up slopes in favourable positions to form raised bogs. Better drained sites on dolerite probably have yellowish brown to brown stony gradational soils, although localised peat deposits may occur even here.

Organic soils are likely to support a sedgeland, mossland, heathland mosaic with thick sphagnum moss beds (occurring as raised bogs in places) and extensive occurrences of Richea scoparia, R. pandanifolia, R. gunnii, Astelia alpina and Gleichenia alpina. Extensive bolster plant communities (e. g. Donatia novae-zelandiae, Dracophyllum minimum and Phyllachne colensoi) occur on the peats while flats and lower slopes support Athrotaxis cupressoides woodland, with a Poa grassland beneath. Nothofagus cunninghamii thickets may become more common at higher altitudes with Eucalyptus coccifera and E_. subcrenulata$_f$ while the dwarf conifers Microstrobos niphophilus and Diselma archeri occur on rockier sites. Boulder slopes are likely to be colonised by the prostrate conifer Podocarpus lawrencii, with Olearia pinifolia, Exocarpos humifusus and Leptospermum rupestre.

This land system is conserved under State Reserve legislation and is utilised for recreation only. Sheet erosion is the greatest hazard especially after fires. Vegetation removal, and the exposure of soil to severe weather conditions and frost heave usually results in accelerated soil loss which is difficult to halt. Fire threats come from careless bushwalkers and forestry operations in adjoining areas.

View of lakes and swamps from upper slope component. Note fire boundaries on ridge in background. (Photograph R. J. Carpenter)



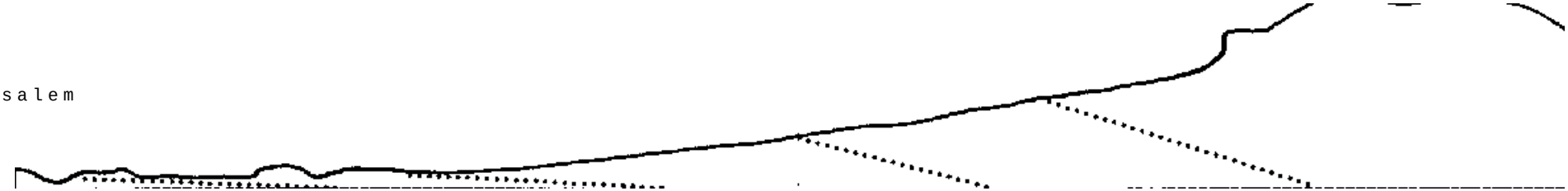
The Temple, Walls of Jerusalem showing swamp, lower slope, scree slope, upper slope, cliff and crest components. (Photogrraph R. J. Carpenter)

Area(ha):
4248

LAND SYSTEM

Walls of Jerusalem

872551



COMPONENT	1	2	3	4	5
PROPORTION{%)	5	20	25	15	35
RAINFALL(mm	Approximate Annual Rainfall: 2000-2500				
GEOLOGY		Jurassic dolerite with Pleistocene deposits (Minor outcrop of Upper Parmeener Supergroup			
TOPOGRAPHY	Alpine mountainous region with glacial features				
Position	Creeks	Lakes and Swamps	Lower Slopes/Flats	Scree Slopes	Upper Slopes, Cliffs, Crests
Typical Slope( )	3-5	0	7-10	30-50	7-15 (90 in places)
NATIVE VEGETATION tructure	Closed Heath/ Sedgeland/Mossland	Mossland/ Sedgeland/Heathland	Low Open Woodland/ Open Heath	Closed to Open Heath with extensive areas	Open Heath to Low Open Heath
Floristic Association (See Appendix 1 for common names)	Olearia obcordata Helichrysum hookeri Richea scoparia Boronia citriodora Epacris gunnii Restio australis Empodisma minus Lepidosperma filiforme Astelia alpina Donatia novae-zelandiae Dracophyllum	Sphagnum cristatum Gleichenia alpina Astelia alpina Richea scoparia R. gunnii Donatia novae-zelandiae Dracophyllum minimum Phyllachne colensoi Mitrasacme archeri Epacris gunnii Lepidosperma filiforme Empodisma	Athrotaxis cupressoides Microstrobos niphophilus Diselma archeri Eucalyptus coccifera E. subcrenulata Orites acicularis O. revoluta Richea sp. Astelia alpina Lissanthe montana Cyathodes parvifolia	Olearia pinifolia Exocarpos humifusus Leptospermum rupestre Drimys lanceolata Podocarpus lawrencii Orites acicularis Coprosma nitlda Cyathodes straminea Nothofagus cunninghamii	Orites acicularis O. revoluta Epacris serpyllifolia Cyathodes petiolaris Podocarpus lawrencii Coprosma nltida Richea sp. Exocarpos humifusus Lissanthe montana Epacris gunnii Bellendena montana
SOIL Surface(A)Textu	Peat	Peat	Loam/Organic Loam/Peat	Loam/Organic Loam/Peat	Loam/Peat
B Horizon(subsoil) Colour (wet) Texture and	Boulder Clay. Organic.	Boulder Clay. Organic.	Probably strong brown to yellowish brown soils. Gradational/Organic	Probably strong brown soils. Gradational/Organic.	Probably strong brown gradational soil. Gradational/Organ
Permeability					
Typical depth(m)			Not sampled		
Depth(A)Horizon(					
LAND USE	Nature conservation/ recreation				
HAZARDS	Moderate to high sheet erosion				