

# FORMAK Pest Animal Transect

## *Whakawhaititanga Kararehe Orotā*

### Field instructions

#### Preparation

##### Field team one or two

- Can be comfortably done with a one person, but is slightly easier with two as one person can record while the other is assessing and laying out blocks.

##### Planning Checklist

Have you:

- Determined how many blocks you will lay out and where transects will be located?
- Have you checked the weather to make sure you are likely to get 2 fine nights to leave wax blocks out.

See *Pest Animal Transect Planning Instruction* for further explanation.

##### Equipment Checklist

- FORMAK Field Instruction
- FORMAK Visual Guide
- FORMAK Header Guide
- FORMAK Pest Animal Transect Form
- 50 wax blocks (see Appendix – Making Wax Blocks).
- GPS (optional – but use it if you have one)
- NZMS 260 series map of the area.
- Aerial Photograph – if available
- Clipboard
- Measuring pole (or 1m measuring stick)
- Pencils
- Rubber
- Compass
- Location markers
- Flagging Tape
- Permanent marker pen
- Hammer
- Nails (60mm galvanised flat head)

#### On Site

##### Locate & mark start

1. Locate your transect start in the field.
2. Permanently mark the start of the transect using a location marker nailed to the nearest sound tree. Leave 20mm of the nail protruding to allow for tree growth. Write “Pest Animal Transect” and the transect on the marker with a permanent marker pen.

##### Form header

3. Fill in the Pest Animal Transect Form header, including location diagram and any notes.

## Set Out Wax Blocks

Label wax block

4. Take a wax block and write the block number on the stick. (blocks are numbered consecutively from 1).

Push into ground

5. Hold the wax block by the stick, with the stick facing downwards, push it into the ground directly in front of you.

6. If the ground is too hard (due to rocks etc) to easily push the stick into the ground, try again nearby (i.e within a metre) until you can easily and securely push the stick into the ground.

Faecal Pellets

7. Search for any animal faecal pellets within 1m of the block. Use the measuring pole folded in half (or your own 1m measuring stick) to check if pellets are within 1m of the block. See FORMAK Visual Guide for images of some faecal pellets.

8. Record presence of animal pellets on the field form.



Continue

9. Take another 20 paces along the transect, number and insert another block in the ground ..... and repeat the steps above until 50 blocks have been laid out, or the entire area is covered (see Pest Animal Transect Planning Instruction).

Marker every 5<sup>th</sup> Block

10. Permanently mark your transect at every 5<sup>th</sup> block (i.e every 100m) by nailing a location marker to a tree. Write "Pest Animal Transect", the transect number, and block number on the tag with a waterproof marker. Leave the nail head 2cm out from the tree to allow for growth.

## Collect Wax Blocks

Two nights

11. Leave the blocks out for two fine nights.

If rain

12. If you get rain or showers over more than half of one night, you will need to repeat the exercise in better weather.

Record

13. Go back and collect the blocks, recording the presence of teeth marks of different animals on each block. (see FORMAK Visual Guide for teeth marks). If you wish, you can just collect the blocks and then examine them for teeth marks when you get home. However, care is required if you are doing this as teeth marks in wax can get damaged by contact with other blocks when you carry them, making them harder to identify.