

Great Barrier Island Black Petrel Survey, 20th-21st December 2023 Trip Report For Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision

Summary

On 20th December, we went further afield than January and found five new burrows as well as a bird on the surface, on the 21st we went surveyed a similar area to January and found three new burrows. Three birds in total were banded. We checked some of the burrows found in January, details for all, are below.

This brings the total to nineteen black petrel burrows detected by Miro, in the area above Medlands.

Burrow	Band	December check
BP05	H46359	Adult on egg.
BP06		Adult on egg. Very deep burrow, under rock.
BP07		Old egg there. Fresh guano outside. Couldn't see bird but multiple tunnels and chambers. Dog keen.
BP08		Empty but guano outside. Short burrow. Dog keen.
BP09		No interest from dog in December.
BP12		New. Egg alone. Base of large puriri.
BP13		New. Adult seen using phone. Too deep. Puriri.
BP14		New. Adult seen but too far in amongst root system.
BP15		Strong dog indication. Guano. Think empty. Non-breeders?
BP16		New. Strong dog indication. Petrel feathers and guano in tunnel. No birds seen.
BP17		New. Dog indication. Guano. No bird seen. Narrow rocky crevice. Probably not burrow, maybe roost.
BP18	H46361	New. Adult on egg. Under rock cavity, amongst Nikau and supplejack.
BP19		New. Adult sitting tight in cavity under big rocks.
Surface	H46360	New. Adult found sitting on surface by dog.
Small		Strong dog indication. Tight cavity. No bird seen. Maybe a Cook's petrel?

Table 1: Description of burrows found by the dogs

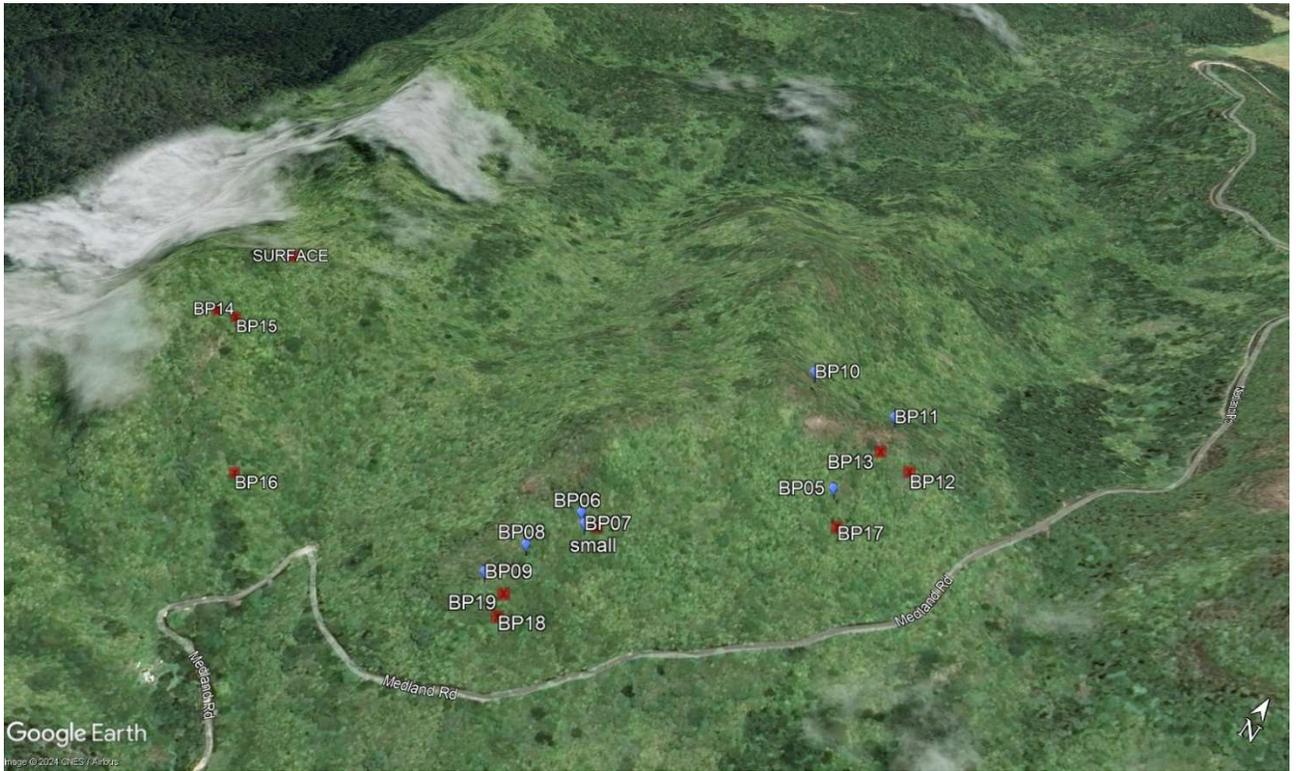


Figure 1. Aerial view showing locations of active black petrels burrows around the Needles rocks

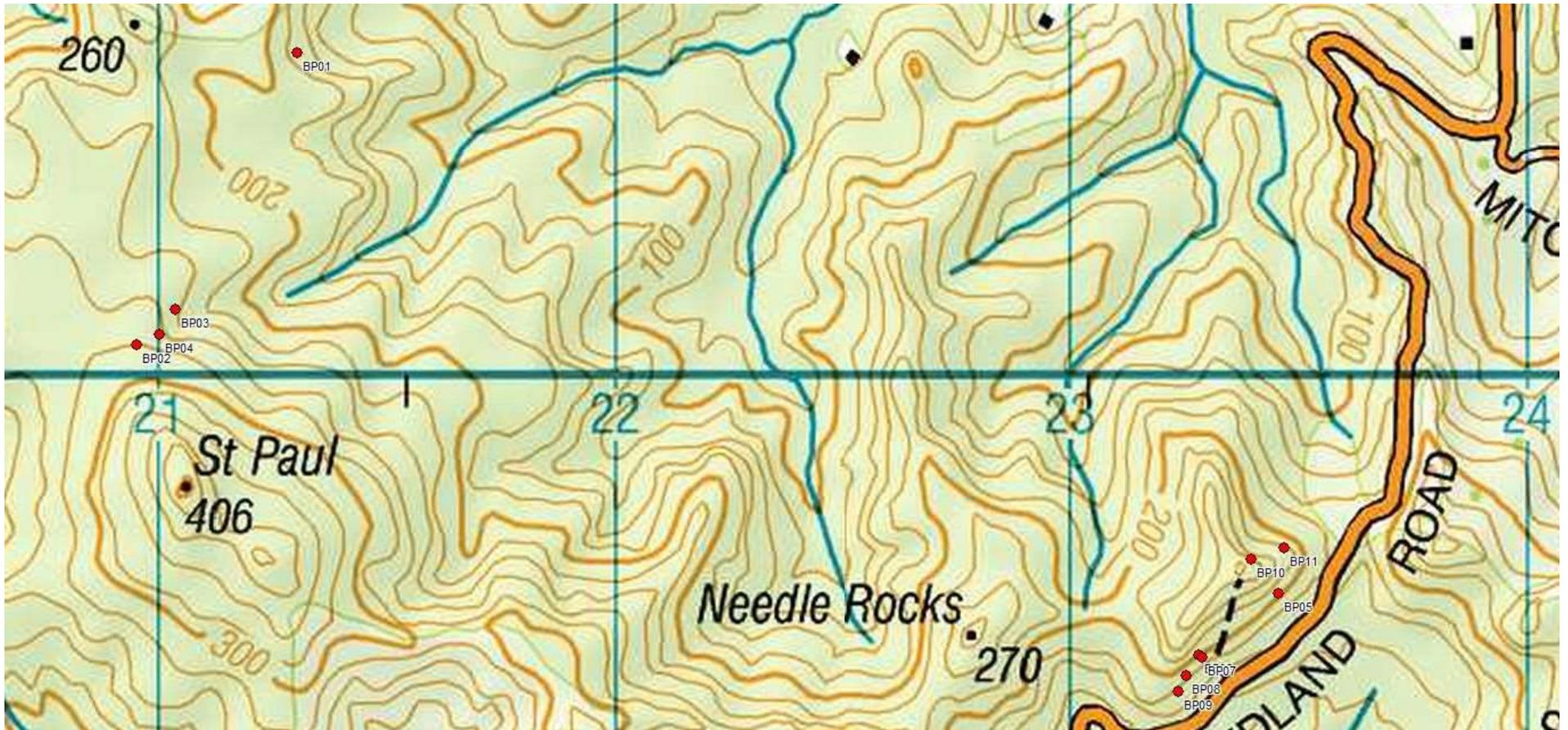


Figure 2: Topographical map showing locations of the eleven burrows found.

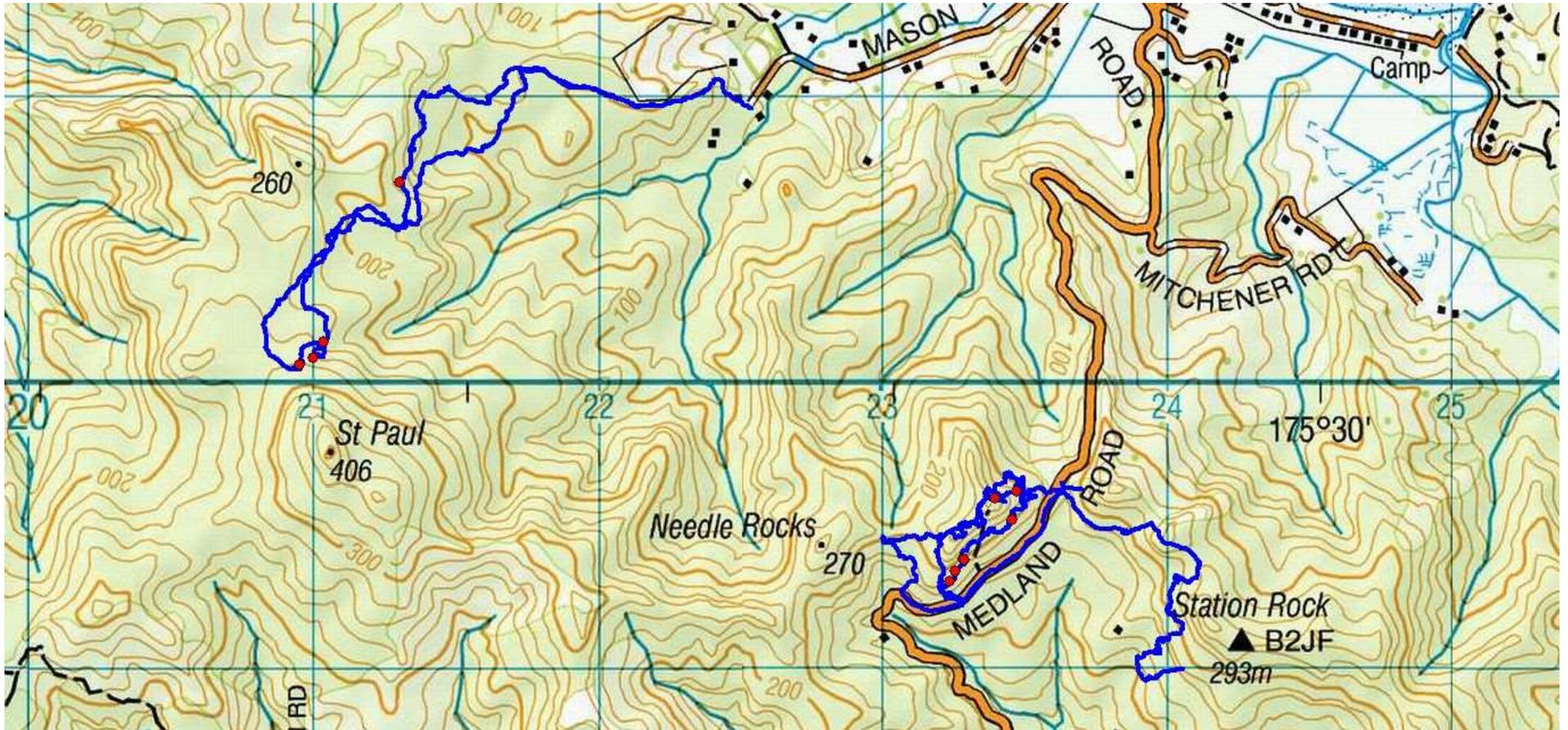


Figure 3: Showing my tracks when searching. Obviously the dogs had a wider track and range than this.