



17 January 2025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 6 December 2024, in which you asked:

I have some concerns about the information in the OIA. Hilary, your letter stated the kaka aviary at Te Anau does not meet the husbandry manual standards. In looking up the standards, it states the minimum is 120 cubic meters with an example of 8x5x3 meters.

Having worked inside and around the kaka aviary it is significantly larger than that, and approximately twice that size. Can DOC provide the actual measurements of the aviary, including the roosting areas which come out from the main, curved/angled aviary?

It seems DOC is stating that after 24 years, Te Anau is somehow unsuitable for Charlie, however, if the kaka aviary is not below the standard, then the conclusion that the aviary is not suitable for a pair of kaka would be incorrect.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

The Kākā Husbandry Manual (see: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/science-publications/conservation-publications/native-animals/birds/kaka-husbandry-manual/>) describes the minimum standards and best practice for kākā in captivity. This includes aviary requirements, such as minimum size and other specifications. Kākā enclosures must be a minimum of 120 m³ for two birds (the minimum number permitted to be held). An additional 50 m³ is required for every individual bird beyond the first pair. The intention of the Kākā Husbandry Manual is to have large aviary spaces where birds can have opportunities for adequate flight and movement.

The kākā aviary at Te Anau Bird Sanctuary includes two 'wings', each with a main area of approximately 90 m³, and a retreat of over 20 m³, giving a total volume for each wing of approximately 111 m³ and 116 m³ respectively. In addition, there is a porch area of approximately 9 m³. The dimensions used to calculate these areas are included within the kākā aviary plan, which is released as Item 1.

It is only with the addition of the retreat areas that the aviary at Te Anau approaches the standard. Even with the retreats, the overall volume of each wing is below the minimum standard for kākā. If the kākā had access to both wings of the aviary, a total volume of over 220 m³, then this aviary would meet the minimum standard for this species. However, the presence of a 'flight door' connecting the two wings means that the ability for long flights by birds is restricted and is absent when the door is closed.

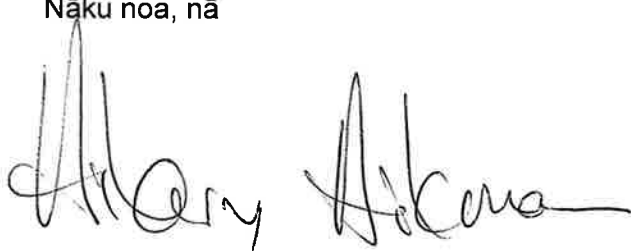
The Kākā Husbandry Manual was published in 2021 and set new standards and expectations for the holding of kākā from that time. The new standards of minimum aviary size represent continuous improvement of standards for kākā in captivity and do impose extra expectations on holders. There have been discussions between the South Island kākā breed-for-release programme team and Te Anau Bird Sanctuary staff on how to ensure the aviary meets the new minimum standards.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	10 Dec 2024	Plan of kākā aviary at Te Anau Bird Sanctuary, showing dimensions.	Released in full

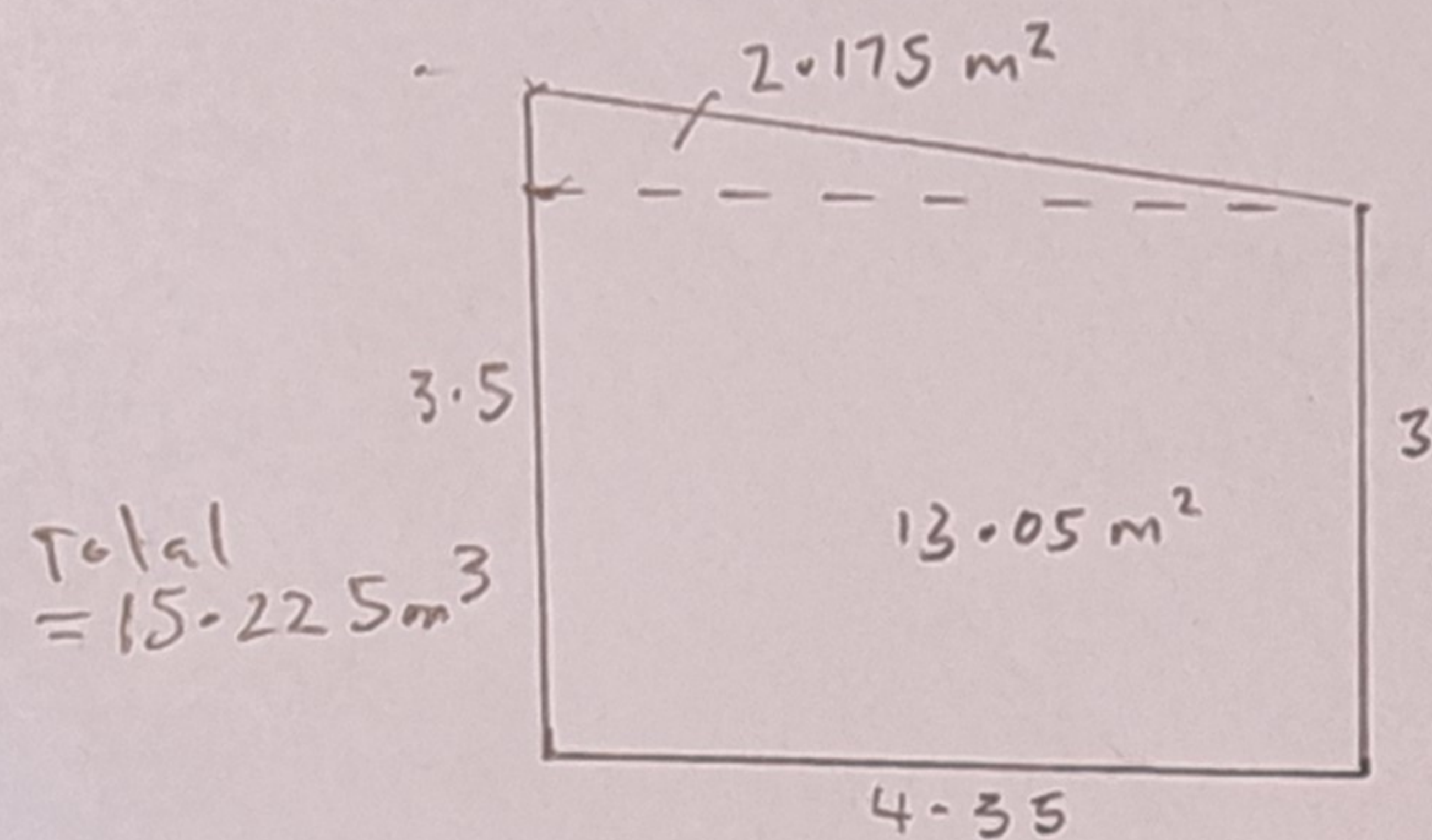
In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā

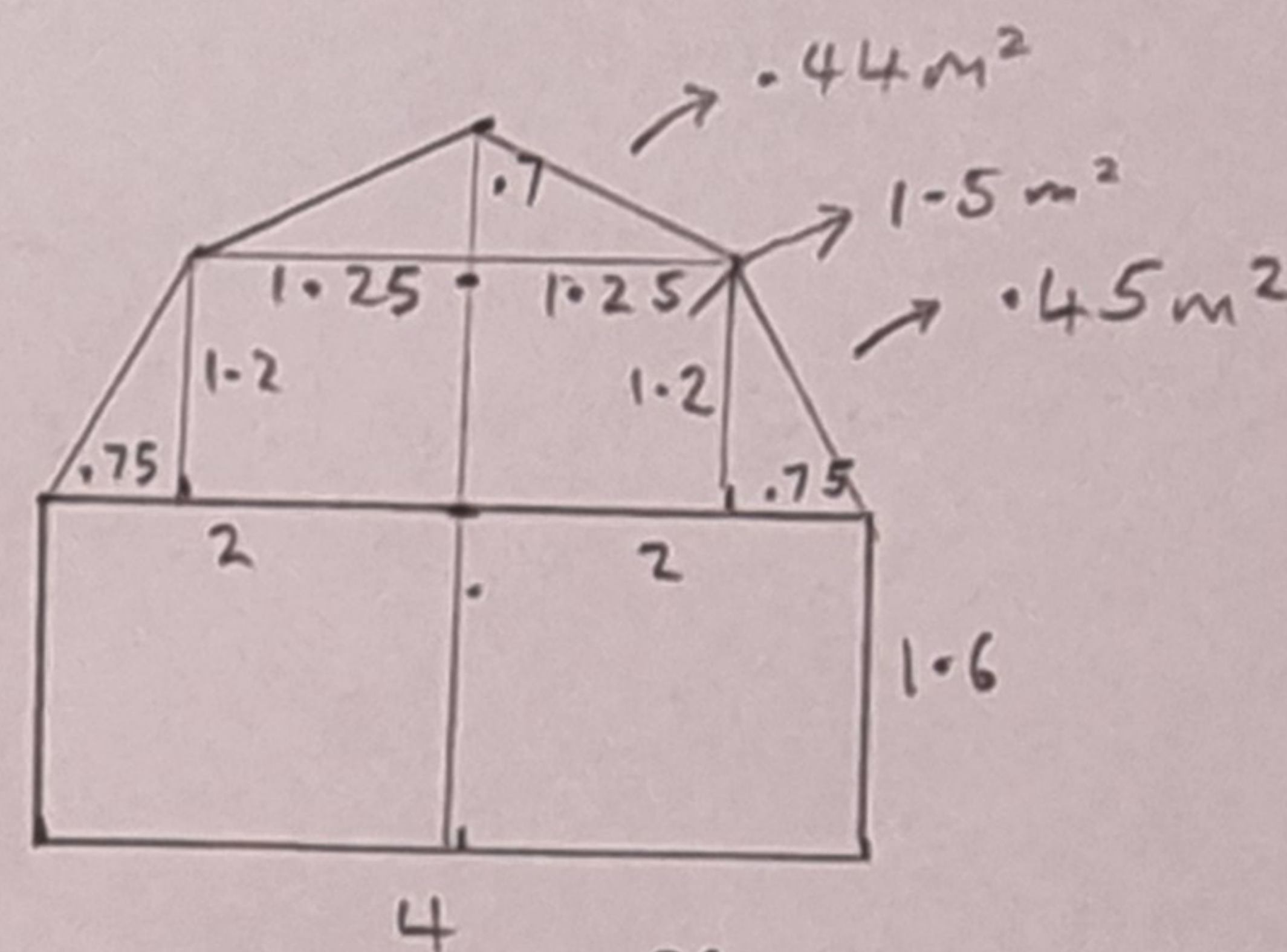
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilary Aikman', written in a cursive style.

Hilary Aikman
Director, Terrestrial Biodiversity
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Total
= 15.225 m³

retreat area
side profile.



end profile

.44
+ 1.5
+ .45

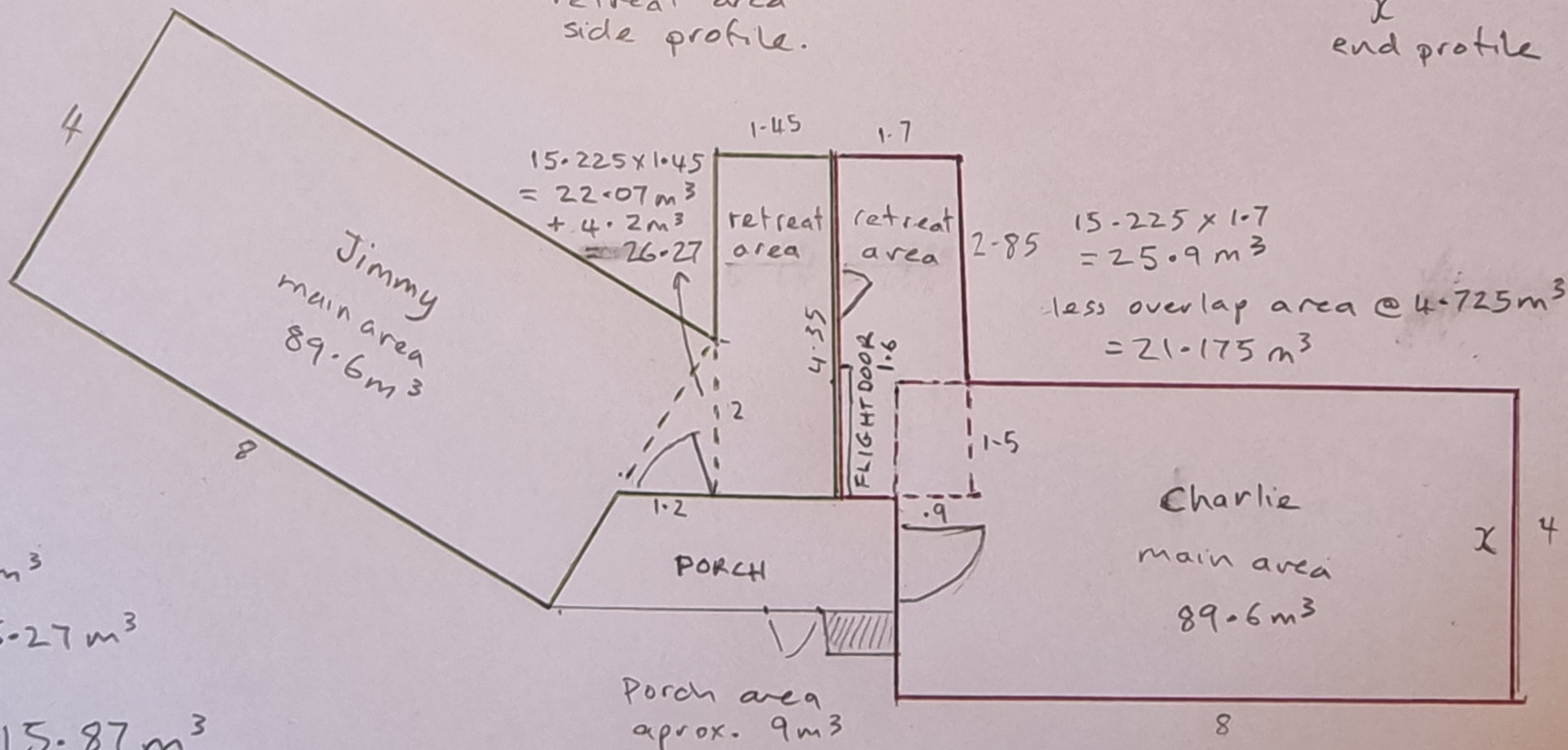
2.39 m²

x 2 = 4.78 m²

+ 4 x 1.6
= 6.4 m²

= 11.2 m²

x 8 m length
= 89.6 m³



Jimmy

main 89.6 m³

retreat 26.27 m³
+ additional
bit

= 115.87 m³

Charlie

main 89.6
+ retreat 21.175

= 110.775 m³