

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>TANGIHUA FOREST</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION</b>	
<b>Component</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Land Types</b> Central ranges high relief.	<p>The Tangihua Range is a prominent feature, visible from a wide catchment both to the west and east, rising suddenly from the surrounding rural lowlands.</p> <p>The landform is steep and dissected with a main ridge aligned west – east.</p>
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites) Manaia / Bream Head stratovolcano	<p>Steep hill country underlain by Cretaceous-Paleocene ophiolitic volcanics (Tangihua Complex). The dominant rock type is very fine to medium grained crystalline basalt and dolerite with minor blocks of sandstone, mudstone, and limestone. A few small bodies of intrusive granodiorite and gabbro are present.</p> <p>The Northland Geopreservation Inventory notes that the Mangaru Range pillow lava represent the best exposures of pillow lava and hyaloclastite in the upper part of Tangihua Complex sequence.</p>
<b>Soil Types</b>	<p>The upper slopes of the Ranges are primarily overlain by Te Kie steepland soils, stony clay loam, and Te Kie steepland soils, reddish brown loam, whilst soils on the lower slopes of the northern and southern flanks comprise Takitu gravelly clay loam.</p> <p>A extensive pocket of Te Ranga steepland soils, light brown clay loam and stoney clay loam is present at the eastern end on the norther side of the ridge.</p>
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>The Tangihua Ecological District PNAP report identifies this Level 1 site as Q07/111. It comprises an area of 3,931 ha, with 3,909.2 ha of forest, and 21.8 ha of shrubland).</p> <p>The site comprises cut-over mixed podocarp broad leaved forest with areas of regenerating manuka shrubland. Vegetation types are strongly influenced by altitude and physiography.</p> <p>The site is of significance due to the presence of provide three threatened plant species and 22 regionally significant plant species. The site supports a range of threatened terrestrial and aquatic fauna species, including records of four bird species, two freshwater fish, four land snails, and one freshwater invertebrate.</p> <p>In addition, Tangihua Forest is representative for at least five ecological units.</p> <p>The PNAP report notes that approximately 80% of the site is protected primarily within DOC-administered Northland Conservation Park land.</p>
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	<p>It is understood that the Tangihuas were used as a place of refuge by maori living in the Whangarei area, during times of war</p>
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	<p>None known.</p>

## Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

The Tangihua Range straddles both the Whangarei and Kaipara District and combines with the Mangaru Range to form a 'gateway' landform feature to the district. A prominent volcanic range, which is visible from both Whangarei and Dargaville, the topography varies between gently rolling on the lower slopes to very steep, with bluffs and rock faces in some parts. The main rugged ridge runs for c.13 km to the south-east.

The high point of the range, Mt Horokaka (at 627m) is located at the western end and gives the range its name. The landform is steep and rugged, with a jagged ridge forming the skyline. A transmitter tower is visible atop Mt Horokaka and this structure tends to diminish the overall scale of feature on which it sits.

The height, steepness and scale of the landform, in conjunction with the relatively low-lying surrounding land means that the range forms a prominent and dramatic backdrop to much of the surrounding area. Viewed from Omana Road, which extends along the south west side of the range, the bush clad ranges form an ever present and dominant feature, rising up behind the pastured foothills. Deeply incised gullies carve through the ranges and these tend to enhance the perception of the three dimensional characteristics of the landform and lend a greater appreciation of the scale, as well as providing access into the interior of the ranges.

Native forest clothes much of the upper and mid slopes of the ranges, with a distinct 'edge' to the vegetation visible bisecting the lower slopes. Only in a limited number of places do fingers of vegetation extend outwards from the main body of the forest along riparian margins or on the steep sides of spurs. In places, wholesale clearance of ridges and lower peaks has denuded portions of the ranges of vegetation, with only scattered totara remaining. These steep sided ridges and spurs, maintain a powerful presence, despite their lack of native vegetation and still 'read' as being part of the overall feature, except where significantly modified.

The ranges include a large area of public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation, with private land around the periphery. The entrance to the DoC reserve is located on Omana Road and, from here access is gained to a number of short tracks and longer routes.

## EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
<b>Natural Science Factors</b>		
<b>Representativeness</b> Natural landscapes are clearly characteristic of the area, district or region. The key components of the landscape will be present in a way that defines the character of the place and distills its character and essence. Endemic associations.	5	The range forms one of a series of ranges vegetated with native forest that extends down the east / central portion of Northland of and includes Tutamoe, and Maungaru. The landscape is therefore strongly representative of this sequence and are representative of Northland as a whole.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Whilst a number of examples of this land type exist, the strength lies partly in the repeated occurrence within the region. They are characteristic of Northland and rare in a national sense.
<b>Aesthetic Values</b>		
<b>Coherence</b> The patterns of land cover and land use are largely in harmony with the underlying natural pattern of the landform of the area and there are no significant discordant elements of land cover or land use.	3	The upper slopes and ridges maintain a virtually contiguous cover of native vegetation with no intrusion from discordant exotic vegetation. Clearance of some lower peaks and ridges has detracted from the overall coherence of the landscape. In a limited number of places fingers of vegetation extend from the margins of the contiguous vegetation along watercourses, within gullies of on steep ridge sides. These vegetative features serve to strengthen the coherence of the landscape and 'anchor' the feature into the landscape.

<p><b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.</p>	<b>5</b>	The ranges display a high level of ecological diversity and complexity, with a variety of vegetation types reflecting the topography, drainage patterns and slope aspect.
<p><b>Vividness</b> Natural features and landscape are widely recognised across the community and beyond the local area and remain clearly in the memory; striking landscapes are symbolic of an area due to their recognisable and memorable qualities.</p>	<b>5</b>	The elevation of the ranges, their forested character and their rugged profile makes them easily recognizable from an extensive visual catchment. They are, therefore widely recognised across and beyond the community.
<p><b>Naturalness</b> How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of buildings and associated built development.</li> <li>• Presence of infrastructure services.</li> <li>• Extent of indigenous forest cover.</li> <li>• Homogeneity of exotic vegetation.</li> <li>• Presence / extent of modified agricultural land use.</li> <li>• Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns.</li> <li>• Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform.</li> <li>• Presence of water.</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	Although the upper portion of the ranges retains a high level of natural character, the infrastructure situated on the crest of Mt Horokaka, and the clearance associated with some of the lower peaks and spurs does detract from its wider naturalness. This modification is offset to some degree by the large area of contiguous native forest (close to 4000 ha).
<p><b>Intactness</b> Natural systems are intact and aesthetically coherent and do not display significant visual signs of human modification, intervention or manipulation, visually intact and highly aesthetic natural landscapes.</p>	<b>4</b>	The ranges retain a moderate level of naturalness with an extensive and contiguous area of native forest. Natural processes within this area are largely intact although the PNAP report notes that grazing by stock and pest animals has degraded the forest understory to some extent. Clearance of vegetation for grazing has occurred on the margins of the feature and this also detracts from the intactness of the feature to some degree.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<p><b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	<b>5</b>	The steepness, scale and elevation of the feature, in conjunction with the dissected stream gullies lend the ranges a highly expressive character.
<p><b>Sensory qualities</b> (These are landscape phenomena as directly perceived and experienced by humans, such as the view of a scenic landscape, or the distinctive smell and sound of the foreshore).</p>	<b>3</b>	The range is visible from an extensive catchment and it is the view of the feature that is most striking and memorable. The feature is limited in other respect with regard to its sensory qualities.
<p><b>Transient Values</b> The consistent and repeated occurrence of transient features that contributes to the character, qualities and values of the landscape; landscapes are widely recognised for their transient features and the contribution that these make to the landscape.</p>	<b>4</b>	Strongly influenced by light and weather conditions. Seasonal influences of kowhai, rata and pohutukawa bloom, and associated avian activity.
<p><b>Remoteness / Wildness</b> Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	The roading network in the area provides reasonably easy access around the range, and the prevailing sense from the margins is of a rural landscape. A greater sense of remoteness can be gained from within the forest where its scale and elevation provide a sense of separation from the surrounding rural landscape.

<p><b>Shared and recognised values</b></p> <p>Natural features and landscape are widely known and valued by the immediate and wider community for their contribution to a sense of place leading to a strong community association with, or high public esteem for the place.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p>The range is visible from a wide catchment both to the east and west. As such they form an ever present and constant feature which enables orientation. In addition, it forms a 'gateway' both to the Whangarei District when travelling on State Highway 14 from the west, and to Dargaville when travelling east. The range is therefore valued by the immediate and wider community.</p>
<p><b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b></p> <p>Natural features and landscapes can be clearly and widely known and influenced by their connection to the spiritual, cultural and historical valued in the place and includes associative meanings and associative activities valued by the community. These can include both activities and meanings associative meanings are spiritual, cultural or social associations with particular landscape elements, features, or areas, whilst associative activities are patterns of social activity that occur in particular parts of a landscape, for example, popular walking routes or fishing spots.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>There is evidence of early use by Maori as a place of refuge during times of war.</p>

Rank scale between 1 (low) and 5 (high)

<b>Land Types</b>
Coastal cliffs / escarpment
Low escarpment
Bays and headlands
Beach
Dune complex
Reefs and islands
Estuarine / inlet
Open harbour
Coastal plain
Rolling hills
Steep hills; moderate to high relief
Ranges; high relief
Strongly rolling land
Low rolling land
Valley floors and flats
Plains
Volcanic cones
River mouth
Wetland
Watercourses
Lakes and water bodies

### Photographs of unit



**Tangihua Range from Waiotira Road**



Tangihua Range from south