

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>HEREKINO BUSH-CLAD HILLS</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION</b>	
<b>Component</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Land Types</b> <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small>  Ranges; high relief	A large, elevated landmass sitting inland of Herekino Harbour and serving to terminate the Tokerau dune flats as the reach Ahipara. High points exceed 550m, and numerous secondary peaks of between 400-500m.
<b>Geology</b> <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	An igneous massif of Tangihua Complex rocks, with very steeply sloping flanks and an upper surface dissected by stream valleys. Marine-eroded terrace remnants, including some mantled by deeply leached sands are present at elevations of 120–170 metres on the northwestern flanks of the massif.
<b>Soil Types</b>	Te Kie steepland soils, light brown stony clay loam; Te Kie steepland soils, stony clay loam; Awapuku clay loam.
<b>Ecology</b> <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	<p>Contains some 18 ecological units and is acknowledged as a large and diverse contiguous habitat with numerous threatened and significant species of flora and fauna.</p> <p>It is the only site in the ecological district where a number of specific forest vegetation associations occur, including taraire-towai-puriri, puriri-taraire-kanuka-towai, kanuka-puriri, kauri-tanekaha-kanuka, secondary kahikatea, as well as the various towai shrubland associations.</p> <p>The site is nationally important because it contains several soils and related vegetation associations of defined types: rendzinas under indigenous vegetation which are nationally uncommon; a moderate range of brown granular clays under indigenous vegetation; and the only example of Dairy Flat soils in the national inventory</p>
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Recorded sites tend to be focused around (and outside) the north western edges of this ONL.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small>  A rugged and elevated area of hill country with a heavy and continuous cover of indigenous vegetation. Important as a southern backdrop to Ahipara and natural gateway when approaching from the south via the Hokianga catchment. Portions of the unit are extremely steep and angular, particularly around its south eastern and south western edges, whereas the upper slopes and much of the northern edge of the unit is much more gentle in its contour.  Physically, spatially and ecologically related to the Ahipara massif to the west and the Mangataniwha range to the east (with Diggers Valley forming a small divide). Entirely free of built development, but includes some minor access tracks and small pockets of pine.	

<b>EVALUATION</b>		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<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.	<b>4</b>	Distinctive to this area and creating a division between Ahipara / 90 Mile Beach and the northern parts of the Hokianga / Herekino catchment area.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	<b>3</b>	Landform and species of vegetation can be broadly seen as being represented elsewhere, but some of the species associations are devoted to this location in relation to the balance of the ecological district and therefore bring a measure of rarity, as do the habitat values provided to a number of threatened and significant species of fauna.
<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.	<b>5</b>	Highly unified and cohesive, without compromise by incompatible elements.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	<b>5</b>	A high level of diversity arising from the moderately complex landform involved and the inherent diversity brought by various ecological types and associations.
<b>Vividness</b> Natural features and landscape are widely recognized 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.	<b>4</b>	Provides part of a distinctive backdrop to Ahipara and to the experience of travelling to that settlement via the Kaitaia Awaroa Road. These, and likely local perspectives, bring a relatively high level of a vividness.
<b>Naturalness</b> How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. <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>4</b>	The body of the unit is entirely free of built development and other modifications, although the margins of the landform nearest to Kaitaia are subject to quarrying, masts and pockets of plantation forestry, and these impact upon the naturalness of the associated portion of the ONL.
<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.	<b>4</b>	Predominantly intact and cohesive, but with localised impact from nearby activities as outlined above.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	<b>4</b>	A clearly expressive landscape where ecological influences are readily seen and the most dramatic parts of the landform speak of formative processes.

<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).	<b>3</b>	Contributes to the context of Ahipara as a rugged wilderness in the mid distance and to the travelling experience arriving from the south.
<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.	<b>2</b>	Responsive to light conditions primarily.
<b>Remoteness / Wildness</b> Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<b>4</b>	Steep, elevated and apparently largely inaccessible. Tends to sit in the background of views and in relation to road corridors, so brings with it an impression of wilderness and remoteness.
<b>Shared and recognised values</b> 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.	<b>4</b>	Thought to be of importance to Ahipara and Kaitaia, since it forms a mid-distant backdrop to both settlements. The Herekino Forest area generally appears to be not well known (compared to the likes of the Waipoua Forest and Mangataniwha Range).
<b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b> 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. 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.	<b>***</b>	Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.

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











