

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>NORTH CAPE</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Coastal cliffs / escarpment	A bold, large headland landform rising very steeply from the sea and capped by an eroding and variable plateau-like terrain.
<b>Geology</b> <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	Tangihua complex serpentine gabbro and basalt bounded by mudstone and intruding microdite-andesite in parts. Laterite overlies an erosional terrace on the northern side of the Cape headland. Geopreservation Inventory: North Cape ultramafic / gabbro ophiolite complex only one of its type in northern NZ.
<b>Soil Types</b>	Huia steepland soils, stony clay and stony silt loam, Rangiuuru soils and Mangonui clay.
<b>Ecology</b> <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	A scientific reserve that is exceptionally important and of international significance. Includes flora and fauna that are nationally critical, nationally endangered, nationally vulnerable, in serious decline or in gradual decline. There are 17 species of plant that are endemic only to this area, reflecting a combination of severe climatic conditions and harsh soils derived from serpentine.
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Numerous pa around southern (Tokatoka Point) coastal brink and Kerr Point to the north west. Archaeological sites more generally form the same pattern of concentration.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	Old serpentine mining area near Surville Cliffs.
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small>	
<p>A very remote and rugged portion of landscape that appears to have been bodily thrust out of the sea. Severe, eroded faces of almost bare rock emerge from the shore and ascend to an almost flat, plateau-like crest to the landform. This cap has extensive areas of naturally bare ground, particularly around the brink and on small apexes that emerge above the crest of the headland.</p> <p>A stunted cover of vegetation, much of it less than a metre high, clads most of North Cape. The limited scale of most cover is reflective of impoverished, serpentine-derived soils and a measure of endemism that has seen naturally stunted species develop. Some more sheltered pockets support larger coastal forest and areas of pohutukawa-dominant groves.</p> <p>North Cape (as the largest landmass is commonly known, although the actual cape is related to a small island off its north east apex) was once an island and has been connected to the mainland by the broad tombolo that spans between Tom Bowling Bay and Waikuku Beach. The Cape is the northern-most portion of mainland NZ and is often the first rounding point for vessels arriving from the Tasman or Pacific.</p>	

<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>5</b>	A unique and distinct landscape, not just in terms of its role as the northernmost point of the country, but also because of its profile and geology, and its distinctive ecology and high measure of endemism amongst the plants found here.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	<b>5</b>	Entirely distinctive as a landform and its more detailed morphology.
<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>	Very cohesive, resulting from a simple and clearly expressed geology and (exposed) soils, along with a cladding of indigenous (and significantly endemic) vegetation.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	<b>4</b>	Complex at a detailed level through its relationship with the coast, nuances of ecological response and matrix of exposed rock and soils. At a broader level, the overall head landform could be considered too simple to be read as having a high measure of complexity.
<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>5</b>	Very distinctive and bold. Inaccessibility and the fact that North Cape is significantly less photographed than Cape Reinga mean that it is likely to be much less widely recognised. Regardless of probable limited recognition amongst the wider populace, the form of the Cape is powerful and memorable.
<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>5</b>	An exceptionally natural landscape that is entirely free of built structures with the exception of a small lighthouse situated on Murimoto Island. An historic and relatively small quarry for serpentine and related access track are now disused and under colonisation by indigenous plants. Some small relics of pastoral grass remain on the least steep of the coastal flanks.  Limited exotic plant species and most large browsing animals that once had access to the area are now contained by a fence across the margin of Waikuku Flat.  A strong connection with a broad sweep of the marine area and drained by a number of small streams (which are known to have high ecological values).
<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>5</b>	Extremely intact and coherent.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	<b>5</b>	Highly legible in all respects. Simple and bold. Geology and soils extensively exposed, vegetation stunted and ground-hugging, clearly subject to the rigours of large seas breaking against the coast and strong winds. Typically seen only from areas some distance to the south.

<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>4</b>	An almost mythical and distant apex to the island. A very “essential” place that is subject to a range of climatic and sea conditions. Closely related to the coast and sea state. Water clarity an important aspect.
<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>	Subject primarily to sea conditions, water clarity and light changes through the day. Very limited accessibility means that few have the opportunity to experience these changes, so it cannot be said that there is wide recognition of these facets.
<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>5</b>	Very remote and inaccessible, with the immediately area barely settled and accessed only by private tracks. Amongst the highest levels of remoteness and wilderness.
<p><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.</p>	<b>5</b>	North Cape extensively known as being the northern-most point of mainland NZ and a defining landmark as such.
<p><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. 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>	<b>5</b>	<p>An important navigational waypoint for vessels traversing the Northland coast.</p> <p>History of serpentine quarrying and early, marginal pastoral agriculture.</p> <p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p>

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

Land Types
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



