

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – MIMIWHANGATA to PAREPAREA BAY
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types Low escarpment land type. Bays and headlands land type. Reefs and islands land type. Sand dune land type	This combination of land types creates a rugged and dramatic landscape that reflects the exposed and wild character of the coast. The cliffs and escarpments are punctuated by bays enclosed by headlands, rocky shelves and reefs.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	<p>The unit includes a sequence of a number of beaches separated by headlands. It also includes rocky shelves and offshore rocky islands.</p> <p>The beaches comprise sand beaches backed by low foredunes, whilst the headlands and islands are described as comprising Waipapa Terrane greywacke with Holocene beach and dune sand in bay on north side of Rimariki Island.</p> <p>The steep coastal hillcountry of Waipapa Terrane greywacke is capped by a Kerikeri Volcanics basalt flow remnant (which is a rare geological type in the District), and associated boulder colluvium.</p>
Soil Types	The predominant soil type along the coastal edge within the unit is Marua clay loam with pockets of Marsden sand.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>This unit contains a number of sites listed within the Whangaruru Ecological District PNAP report. All of the sites are Level 1 sites, the detail of which are as follows:</p> <p>NGAHAU BAY COASTAL HABITAT The site is identified as Q06/031 and comprises 2 ha of duneland and 1 ha of estuary. It is a coastal site supporting threatened and regionally significant species.</p> <p>WAIKAHOA BAY FOREST The site is identified as Q06/027 and has an area of 108 ha. The area is of significance due to the presence of King fern (Serious Decline), kawaka (Sparse), pateke (Nationally Endangered), NI brown kiwi (Serious Decline), kukupa (Gradual Decline). Red-crowned kakariki (Regionally Significant) have been recorded from the area.</p> <p>MIMIWHANGATA COASTAL FOREST REMNANTS This site is identified as Q06/030 and has an area of 25 ha.</p> <p>The site is of significance due to the presence of <i>Calystegia marginata</i> (Sparse), <i>Fuchsia procumbens</i> (Sparse), pateke (Nationally Endangered) and NI brown kiwi (Serious Decline) are present in the forest or margins. <i>Placostylus hongii</i> (Range Restricted) was formerly known from Paparahi Point and Ngahau Headland, but is now thought to be extinct at these sites. The snail Punctidae sp. 28 (Range Restricted) is still known from these remnants.</p> <p>MIMIWHANGATA BEACH/PAREPAREA BAY Identified as Q06/039. It is reported that this sequence of beaches are of significance due to the presence of threatened and regionally significant species. Northern NZ dotterel and variable oystercatcher breed in this area and pateke are found in the streams behind the</p>

	<p>beaches. The site is a relatively unmodified example of a rare habitat type in the Ecological District and is a representative site for type spinifex grassland.</p> <p>MIMIWHANGATA NORTH WETLANDS This Level 1 site is described as Q06/041 and comprises an area of 8 ha.</p> <p>The site is noted as being of significance due to the presence of several threatened and regionally significant species including white heron (Nationally Critical), grey duck (Nationally Endangered), matuku (Nationally Endangered), pateke (Nationally Endangered), black shag (Sparse), pied shag (Sparse), spotless crane (Sparse), and grey teal (Regionally Significant). The Kaituna wetland is of significant size, with a series of smaller wetlands in the area all providing habitat for pateke and other threatened bird species.</p> <p>RIMARIKI ISLAND & SURROUNDS This Level 1 site is identified as Q05/060 and comprises 11 ha of forest and 11 ha of shrubland)</p> <p>The site is noted as being of significance due to the presence of nationally rare habitat types, and a representative site for all ecological units.</p> <p>In addition, it supports a range of threatened plant and animal species, and regionally significant plant species. The plant species include <i>Hibiscus</i> aff. <i>trionum</i> (Nationally Endangered), large-leaved milk tree (Sparse), coastal tussock (Range Restricted) and <i>Hebe</i> "Whangarei" (Regionally Significant). Significant flora on Motuwharariki Island includes <i>Carmichaelia williamsii</i> (Nationally Endangered), large leaved milk tree (Sparse), coastal mahoe (Regionally Significant), and tawapou (Regionally Significant).</p> <p>The animal species include reef heron (Nationally Endangered), and white-fronted tern (Gradual Decline). Lizard species include common gecko, and shore skink. The snail <i>Phrixgnathus paralaomiformis</i> (Range Restricted) is found on both Rimariki and Motuwharariki Islands</p> <p>WIDE BERTH ISLANDS This Level 1 site is identified as Q05/061 and comprises an area of 1.4 ha</p> <p>The site is noted as being of significance for the presence of threatened species which include <i>Carmichaelia williamsii</i> (Nationally Endangered) recorded in 1981. Coastal tussock (Range Restricted). The site is representative with the only record of Native iceplant–taupata coastal association on hillslope, and coastal tussock–native iceplant coastal association on hillslope vegetation types in the Ecological District.</p>
Archaeological sites	Pa sites are evident on prominent headlands.
Heritage Landscapes	None known.

Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

This unit includes the tip of the Mimiwhangata peninsula, and its eastern side, including the sequence of rocky headlands, which separate a number of sandy bays as far south as Pareparea Bay. A primary characteristic of this coastal landscape is the sequence of small to moderate sized beaches defined by stretches of rocky coastline. Many of the beaches tend to be indented into the rocks so that prominent headlands, with rocky shoals extending seaward and define the beach in a cove-like character. Parts of the rocky portions of the coast feature reefs or small islets which extend the rocky profile of the coast seawards. Low rocky cliff lines or steep coastal banks are typical of this landscape.

The convoluted character lends the coast an added measure of interest, fragmenting and framing views and because the coast tends to be semi exposed the landscape is periodically battered by moderate seas. In calmer conditions, when the shores are lapped by placid waters the colour and clarity of the water, in conjunction with the exposed and submerged rock, and seaweed are attractive and alluring and heighten the sense of drama.

The coherence of the coastal margin is strengthened by the strong vegetation patterns where pohutukawa are a recurring theme. These frequently dominate headlands and the steepest portions of the coast and sometimes provide backdrops to beaches. Where beaches are backed by dunes, such as in Pareparea Bay, spinafex and pingeo strengthen the apparent natural character. Some steep rocky headlands along the coast host pa sites, where the elevation of these elements have provided strategic bastions.

The smaller islands tend to be little more than rock outcrops, or stacks, but the larger islands host low wind pruned vegetation

EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
Natural Science Factors		
Representativeness 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 varied coastal alignment provides a strong sense of anticipation and is characteristic of the rocky northland coast where views and outlooks continually change as the viewer moves through the landscape. The presence of native vegetation, particularly pohutukawa lends the scene a strong endemic character.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Although relatively common on the northland coast, the character of this landscape is less common at a national level and is therefore of significance.
Aesthetic Values		
Coherence 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.	4	The strong vegetation patterns, often dominated by pohutukawa and sometimes reinforced by coastal shrubland associations lend the coast a high level of coherence. Pockets of built development occur, but these tend to be confined to bays, or to headlands adjoining bays where access is facilitated.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	The coast displays a high level of complexity by virtue of its convoluted form, and the variety provided by the combination of rocky coast and sandy bays further heightens this perception of complexity. In addition, the diversity of microclimate and growing conditions offered is matched by the diversity of vegetation types that take advantage of the opportunities.

<p>Vividness 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>	5	The coast offers spectacular and dramatic views which are recognised across the community. The vividness of the landscape is increased by calm and sunny conditions when the interplay between the colour of sky and water heightens the visual qualities of the coast.
<p>Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of buildings and associated built development. • Presence of infrastructure services. • Extent of indigenous forest cover. • Homogeneity of exotic vegetation. • Presence / extent of modified agricultural land use. • Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns. • Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform. • Presence of water. 	4	The coastal edge displays a limited level of modification as a result of human activity, however the inland component of the landscape has been modified by agricultural practice, replacing the natural vegetation with pasture. Having said this, there is a paucity of built development and landform modification, and the landscape therefore retains a moderate level of naturalness, retaining evidence of natural processes.
<p>Intactness 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>	4	The landward backdrop to the coast – particularly on the Mimiwhangata peninsula is dominated by a pastured landscape and therefore displays a level of human modification. Evidence of natural systems remain within the wetlands contained within these pastured areas and are also evident on the coastal margins where both ecological processes and coastal processes are clearly evident.
Experiential Values		
<p>Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	5	The convoluted and rocky coast clearly demonstrates the formative erosive and depositional processes that continue to shape this landscape.
<p>Sensory qualities (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>	5	The colour and light of this landscape, particularly on still calm days is particularly striking. During stormy weather, the sensory quality of the landscape is different but equally striking with exposure, wind and the smell and feel of the sea being dominant.
<p>Transient Values 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>	4	Transient values are associated with the flowering of pohutukaka, the migratory patterns of bird which frequent the wetlands, and the changes associated with tide and weather.
<p>Remoteness / Wildness Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of remoteness • Accessibility • Distance from built development 	4	The sense of remoteness varies along the coast depending on opportunities for access and the intensity of use. There is potential for experiencing remoteness or wildness.
<p>Shared and recognised values 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</p>	5	The values associated with the Northland coast are widely known and this recognition is evidenced by the numbers of visitors during the holiday periods. The associations which include rocky headlands, bays and the characteristic coastal

esteem for the place.		vegetation including pohutukawa provide a strong sense of place.
Spiritual, cultural and historical associations 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.	3	Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period. Numerous pa sites are evident particularly on the larger headlands. The coast is highly valued by the community for recreation and this can translate to a spiritual affinity.

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



Rimariki Island, off Mimiwhangata