

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – PARUTAHI BEACH TO MIMIWHANGATA BAY
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> 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.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	Oakura Bay comprises a sandy beach with a small estuary at the southern end. Eight coastal remnants on cliffed coastal headlands in Waipapa Terrane greywacke. Cliffed islet of Waipapa Terrane greywacke.
<b>Soil Types</b>	The predominant soil type along the coastal edge within the unit is Marua light brown clay loam and Marua clay loam with Whakapara mottled clay loam, Otonga peaty clay loam and Whananaki Sand present in the gully bottoms
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>This linear unit includes a number of individual PNAP sites, as follows:</p> <p><b>Q05/022 (Oakura Bay Coastal Habitat)</b>            This Level 1 site comprises 9 ha of duneland, and 5 ha of estuary and is of significance due to the presence of threatened and regionally significant bird species (northern NZ dotterel (Nationally Vulnerable), variable oystercatcher (Regionally Significant)).</p> <p><b>Q05/023 (Helena Bay Remnants)</b>            This Level 1 site comprises 7 ha of estuary, and 28 ha of forest).</p> <p>This site is notable as it contains a good example of coastal forest featuring a diversity of forest types including kauri. It is also of significance due to the presence of threatened and regionally significant species including king fern (Serious Decline) and <i>Fuchsia procumbens</i> (Sparse) is found in the forest at the north end of Ngawai Bay.</p> <p>In addition, The upper Ngawai Bay estuary is a very important roost site for pateke (Nationally Endangered). Bird species which utilise the estuary include pied shag (Sparse) and variable oystercatcher (Regionally Significant). Matuku (Nationally Endangered) have been reported from the estuarine area in the past.</p> <p>The threatened snail <i>Schizoglossa worthyae</i> (Sparse) is reported to be present within the site.</p> <p><b>Q05/024 (Oakura Bay Remnants)</b>            This Level 1 site comprises 28 ha of forest, and 5 ha of shrubland and the site consists of several small coastal remnants adjacent to Oakura Bay.</p> <p>It is of significance as the coastal forest remnants of the area are an important landscape feature, and are a nationally rare forest type.</p> <p><b>Q05/065 (Moanarua Island)</b>            This site comprises 2 ha of forest, and 5 ha of shrubland.</p>

	<p>It is an example of a nationally rare habitat type. Presence of a threatened plant and animal species including coastal tussock (Range Restricted) and pied shag (Sparse)</p> <p>Q05/066 (Motuhi And Parerangi Islands) These islands are 5 ha in area. Substantial areas of Motuhi Island consist of bare rock. The vegetative landscape includes harakeke which is common and pohutukawa, kanuka, taupata, <i>Coprosma</i> sp. and <i>Hebe</i> sp. are frequent.</p> <p>The sites are of significance due to the presence of threatened fauna species on both islands. Presence of a threatened plant and fauna species including coastal tussock (Range Restricted), reef heron (Nationally Endangered), white-fronted tern (Gradual Decline), pied shag (Sparse).</p>	
Archaeological sites	Pa sites are evident on prominent headlands.	
Heritage Landscapes	None known.	
<p><b>Landscape characterisation</b> (including the identification of any specific characteristics)</p> <p>This varied and rocky coast features a number of prominent headlands and rocky outcrops with small islets. To the north lies the sheltered Whangaruru Harbour, whilst to the south the unit is defined by the Mimiwhangata peninsula.</p> <p>The scale of the bays differs from the coast to the south, with enclosed larger bays such as Mimiwhangata, Helena, and Oakura Bays, separated by exposed and rocky headlands, with smaller more intimate 'coves' within the bays sheltered by rocky promontories.</p> <p>The larger headlands are extensions of ridges that trend to the east from the elevated hills associated with Russell Forest inland and are occupied by numerous pa sites such as Pukehuna pa on Otara Point, and Otorewa, Araiteuru, Puatamaroa and Takapurua and Mahingutu Pa on the headland between Mokau and Oakura.</p> <p>In contrast to the coast to the south, the hills are closer to the coast, particularly at the northern end of the unit and, in places, the forest extends down the hill slopes to the coastal margin. Generally however, the landscape adjoining the coastal margin is characterised by a mosaic of native and exotic vegetation with pasture, although vegetation patterns tend to reflect the underlying landform.</p> <p>As is a feature of this coast, the steep coastal slopes and cliffs are largely vegetated with pohutukawa and other native coastal shrubland associations.</p> <p>The beaches have extensive back flats across which streams meander before flowing into the ocean. In most cases, settlements have become established on these flats, served by Old Russell Road.</p>		
<b>EVALUATION</b>		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Natural Science Factors</b>		
<p><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.</p>		<p>The sequence of elements including rocky headlands, vegetated coastal slopes and beaches, with limited and localized pockets of built development is very characteristic of the eastern northland coast.</p> <p>The concentration of vegetation, including pohutukawa on the coastal flank is a powerful contributing theme and highly representative.</p>

<p><b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.</p>	5	Although this land type is common locally, it is rare in the national context.
<b>Aesthetic Values</b>		
<p><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.</p>	4	<p>The unit displays a moderate level of coherence, with elements such as the vegetated coastal slope, the sometimes immediate backdrop of forest and the linking flow of vegetation down ridges to the coast enhancing the coherence.</p> <p>The coastal elements such as the pattern of rocky headlands, shoals and islets, and the interplay between these elements and the ocean displays a high level of coherence.</p> <p>Built development has tended to focus on flats behind beaches, but where it has intruded onto prominent locations such as headlands or elevated mid and upper slopes, or where tracks have been cut across steep eroding slopes this has resulted in the diminishing of coherence, as has the progressive erosion of vegetation patterns.</p>
<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>	4	Bush remnants, coastal vegetation and dune vegetation displays a high level of diversity and complexity. In addition, the coastline displays a complexity and diversity whilst also maintaining a high level of coherence.
<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>	5	The indented rocky coastline, beaches and framing islets, along with the colour of the sea is particularly memorable and are highly symbolic of the area.
<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>	4	<p>Although the coast maintains a high level of visual absorption capability – a consequence of the complexity of the coastal edge and landform, strong landscape patterns and vegetation patterns, modification resulting from agricultural practices and building development is evident along the coastal margin.</p> <p>This modification creates the representative Northland coastal character, however at the same time it diminishes the influence of natural (ecological) processes and ecological patterns.</p> <p>For the most part however, this only applies to the coastal hinterland whilst the coastal margin retains a high level of naturalness.</p>
<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>	4	With the exception of pockets of development, the coastal margin retains a high level of intactness.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<p><b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	4	The coastal margin clearly demonstrates the formative and ongoing coastal processes.

<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>5</b>	<p>Visually the unit is very striking, but as with the appreciation of the smell and sound of the coast, the visual qualities are dependant on weather conditions and the sense of exposure can be experienced particularly on the larger headlands. This said, the unit does offer very distinctive sensory opportunities.</p>
<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>	<p>The coastal character of the unit, and its exposure to prevailing winds means that its character and qualities vary with the seasons, and weather.</p> <p>The flowering of pohutukawa is also a notable transient value.</p>

<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>2</b>	<p>Although it is possible to gain a sense of remoteness within the smaller bays, the proximity of Russell Road and built development reduces the sense of remoteness.</p>
<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>	<p>Northland's eastern coast possesses a distinct character and quality that is valued by the wider community and attracts holiday-makers and tourists during throughout the year.</p>
<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>3</b>	<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>Numerous pa sites are evident particularly on the larger headlands.</p> <p>The coast is highly valued by the community for recreation and this can translate to a spiritual affinity.</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



**View to Taiwawa and Okurekureia Bays**



**View to Mimiwhangata Bay**



View to Mokau Bay and Oakura including Otorewa, Araiteuru, Puatamaroa and Takapurua and Mahingutu Pa