

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – PARIHAKA AND ASSOCIATED FOREST
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> Volcanic cones land type Northern and eastern dissected hills; moderate to high relief land type	The unit is a recognisably volcanic feature which forms a focus from within the city, and contains the city on its eastern side.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	Parahaki Subgroup rhyolite dome.
<b>Soil Types</b>	The upper part of the unit comprises Pukekaroro steepland clay loam, whilst the southern end of the unit, Piroa clay and Pukenui silt loam predominates. Pockets of Riponui clay and sandy clay are present in the north east. The lower western slopes are characterised by Hukerenui sandy loams and Ruatangata friable clays.
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>The Whangarei Ecological District PNAP report identifies this Level 1 site as Q07/018 and states that it comprises 179.4 ha of forest and 10.8 ha of shrubland.</p> <p>The majority of the feature is clad with native vegetation and includes mature kauri-rimu forest, a vegetation type that is rare in this Ecological District. The site is representative for all the vegetation types listed and the PNAP report identifies a number of significant flora and fauna including, king fern <i>Marattia salicina</i> (Declining), fern <i>Loxoma cunninghamii</i> (Regionally significant species). In terms of fauna the report lists a remnant population of NI brown kiwi (Category A threatened species), kukupa (Category B threatened species) and NI tomtit (Regionally significant species), Auckland green geko (Regionally significant species), banded kokupu (Category C Regionally threatened species), inanga, long-finned eel and koura are also present in the streams.</p>
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	<p>Parihaka is a former pa site, and is said to have been home to more than two thousand people. It contains visible remains of house sites, storage pits and defences along the 3 km of ridgeline and includes the remains of over 100 terraces and 300 kumara pits. The mountain is one of the most significant mountains for Māori in Northland.</p> <p>A battle and massacre took place in the area in the 1700's.</p>
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	None known
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> (including the identification of any specific characteristics)	
<p>Whangarei city is contained on its eastern and western sides by forested hills. The Western Hills and Pukenui crowd in on the western side whilst to the east it is Parihaka that dominates the view and is arguably the more important feature in terms of its form, and recreational use.</p> <p>Parihaka is also a site of extreme cultural and historical significance to Maori in the region</p> <p>Although the feature as a whole is relatively modified, the parts of Parihaka that are visible from the downtown and inner suburbs are clothed with native forest and form a strong backdrop to the urban area. Parihaka forms the focus of the view along James and John Street in the centre, and similarly</p>	

along Nixon Street in Kensington.

The undeveloped and vegetated western slopes of the unit are a consequence of the gifting of these portions of Parihaka to the city as public parks by early residents such as George Drummond, Douglas Ross, Gilbert Mair, and Herbert Dobbie.

The eastern side of the hill, is owned by Whangarei District Council and has historically been planted in pine trees. In 1997, the Council passed a resolution that, following harvesting of the pines, the forest would be returned to native vegetation. This area is currently used as a mountain bike park and, visually separate from the area to the west has the appearance of a cut over pine block and is less memorable than the western slopes.

Built development is separated from the slopes of Parihaka at the northern end of the western slopes by the Hatea River. At the southern end, residential development within the Riverside suburb has encroached on ridges to gain views across the city from the lower and mid slopes.

Memorial Drive climbs the main ridge from the south to provide access to the summit of the feature from where views across the city are available. Views from the summit include all of the main volcanic cones within the Whangarei field, as well as the Tangihua Range.

Also located on the summit is a war memorial, and a telecommunications mast.

## EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
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### Natural Science Factors

<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>	The location of Parihaka so close to the city, and its function as a focus and backdrop, as well as an important recreational resource, means that the feature has become highly representative of the City.
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<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	<b>5</b>	The feature is considered to be rare due to its cultural, recreational and ecological values.
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### Aesthetic Values

<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>4</b>	The western slopes display a high level of coherence, with vegetation patterns strongly reflecting the underlying topographical form. The most visible parts of the feature display few signs of modification nor built development.  The eastern side of Parihaka, by contrast is highly modified, as is the southern end of the unit.
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<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>	The unit displays a high level of ecological diversity and complexity, with a variety of vegetation types reflecting the topography, drainage patterns and slope aspect.
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<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.	<b>4</b>	The unit is widely recognised across the community by virtue of its scale, vegetated character and other associations. As a feature taken in isolation however, the unit only displays a moderate level of vividness.
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<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> </ul>	<b>4</b>	The unit possesses a high level of naturalness with little evident built development or infrastructure services. The contiguous forest cover contrasts with the rural character of the surrounding landscape and this heightens the perception of its naturalness.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>		The PNAP report indicates that natural processes and ecological patterns are strong and in good health.
<p><b>Intactness</b></p> <p>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>	Parihaka forms a large area of forest with a range of vegetation types. The contiguous vegetation, although modified in the past for logging, displays a high level of intactness with aesthetically coherent vegetation patterns.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<p><b>Expressiveness</b></p> <p>The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	<b>5</b>	The landscape displays a high level of legibility in terms of the hydrological processes that have shaped the valleys and ridges. The complexity and spatial arrangement of vegetation reflects the underlying topographical form of the ranges.
<p><b>Sensory qualities</b></p> <p>(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>	Primarily limited to the smells and sounds of the forest, with occasional views to the wider landscape from high points within the forest.
<p><b>Transient Values</b></p> <p>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 the blooming of trees and shrubs.
<p><b>Remoteness / Wildness</b></p> <p>Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence?</p> <p>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>	The network of walking trails through the unit, and its proximity to residential areas limits the sense of remoteness.
<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>	<b>5</b>	Parihaka is widely valued and recognised through the community as a visual, recreational, cultural and ecological resource.
<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>	<b>5</b>	<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>The unit forms a backdrop to Whangarei and has significant cultural and spiritual values and is valued by the community.</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



View of Parihaka looking south east



View of the eastern side of Parihaka with the city in the background