

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – SENTINAL ROCK COAST
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Coastal cliffs Low escarpment Dunes.	The unit forms a context to the dramatic precipitous cliffs associated with the Bream Tail headland and creates a sense of exposure and isolation when on the beach to the north of the settlement.
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	Coastal hillsides and gullies underlain by Mesozoic greywacke (Waipapa Terrane); Miocene sandstone and sandy mudstone (Waitemata Group); Miocene dacite intrusions (Waitakere Group); and Holocene beach sands.
Soil Types	The unit is entirely overlain with Te Ranga steepland soils, clay loam and stony clay loam.
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	The unit falls within the Bream Tail Coastal headland (R 08/001) as identified within the Waipu Ecological District PNAP survey. The overall site, of which the unit is a part comprises a Level 1 site and occupies 2.4 ha of duneland, 221.5 ha of forest, 25.5 ha rockland, 7.2 ha shrubland, 4.1 ha wetland) states that the Bream Tail Coastal Headland site comprises a unique set of habitats. The PNAP report states: <i>“.....the only steep rocky coastal headland with extensive cliffs and steepland coastal forest. It includes a geological site of regional importance: the best exposed Miocene dacite dome of the group around Bream Tail is at R08 540 705, just south of the tip.....High numbers of threatened flora and fauna have been recorded from this site, including the following: six threatened flora species (mida, parapara, Doodia mollis, Streblus ?banksii x S. heterophyllus, Tetragonia tetragonioides, Chionochloa bromoides), five regionally significant flora species (hard beech, wharariki, coastal maire, tawapou, Coprosma rigida), seven threatened fauna species (North Island kaka, Caspian tern, red-billed gull, kukupa, longfin eel, Amborhytida dunniæ, and northern blue penguin), and four regionally significant fauna species (red-crowned kakariki, variable oystercatcher, banded kokopu and possibly grey-faced petrel)”.</i>
Archaeological sites	Not known.
Heritage Landscapes	Not known.
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small> This unit extends to the south of the Bream Tail unit and stretches the remaining 2 km to Sentinal Rock at the mouth of the Mangawhai Harbour. The unit is confined to a narrow coastal belt typically extending to the upper edge of the coastal ridge. The escarpment has a ‘raw’ feel and is largely vegetated with rough grasses, although pockets of native vegetation have, and are continuing to become established within sheltered pockets, and wet seeps.	

Within this unit the beach tends to be wider. At the southern end, dunes are banked up along the coastal flank whilst the rocky reefs are absent. The coastal escarpment rises steeply to a prominent ridge, which has been recently subdivided, and on which built development has begun to occur. This built development, and the associated accessways detract significantly from the naturalness and character of the landform.

Further north, a valley opens onto the coastal edge and the character of the unit changes, with the coastal margin, behind the dunes being lower and undulating with a belt of pohutukawa and coastal shrubland species. This vegetation partially screens built development within the Bream tail subdivision. The aforementioned valley provides access to the beach from the Bream tail subdivision and contains, behind the low dunes a car park and the 'lodge' a community building.

The northern side of the valley rises steeply to form a precipitous escarpment and marks the boundary between the subject unit and the adjoining unit to the north.

The unit forms a dominant backdrop to the beach and contributes to a sense of remoteness.

Access is provided along the length of the unit via a coastal walkway, and views from the walkway to the ocean and south to the Mangawhai Spit are spectacular.

EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
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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.	4	The unit is contiguous with the Bream Tail Coast unit and forms an important context for that feature. Whilst features of this scale are rare, Bream Tail and its setting is a highly representative of the Northland coastline.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Features of the scale of Bream Tail and its setting are rare within the regional context.

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	Development associated with subdivision at the southern end of the unit has reduced the naturalness of the unit's context. Built development introduces elements that provide a scale against which to measure the scale of the feature, as well as intruding on the natural character of that feature. This development, like that within the Bream tail Farm subdivision to the north tends to be subservient to the unit, and therefore a measure of coherence is retained.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	3	The unit displays a simple and powerful form, however, although the ecological associations contain elements of diversity and complexity.
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.	5	The scale and visual power of the unit, when seen in conjunction with the ocean creates a highly vivid experience, especially in sunny or stormy conditions.
Naturalness How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of buildings and 	3	Comments relating to the intrusion of subdivision above apply here. Subdivision development within the visual context of the unit has the potential to detract from the naturalness of the unit, however overall it is considered that

<p>associated built development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		<p>development to date remains generally subservient to the natural character of the unit.</p> <p>The escarpment is vegetated with a mix of rough grasses, including kikuyu, and native coastal vegetation. This vegetation has established and is continuing to regenerate within pockets where additional shelter is provided, or where moisture is more available. Thus the patterns of vegetation reflect the natural underlying topographical and hydrological patterns and this strengthens the appearance of naturalness.</p>
<p>Intactness</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>	3	<p>With the exception of the built development, mentioned above, the unit displays limited evidence of modification.</p>
<p>Experiential Values</p>		
<p>Expressiveness</p> <p>The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.</p>	5	<p>The steep cliffs display clear signs of the erosive formative processes, and occasional slips confirm these ongoing processes.</p>
<p>Sensory qualities</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>	5	<p>The presence of the ocean, and the exposure of the unit provides significant opportunities to experience the views as well as the smell and sound of the sea, and buffeting of the wind on a windy day.</p>
<p>Transient Values</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>	4	<p>Transient values associated with the unit involve seasonal and meteorological changes, as well as the nesting of shore birds on the beach.</p>
<p>Remoteness / Wildness</p> <p>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 	3	<p>Although readily accessible either to residents from within adjoining properties, or along the coastal walkway, the unit does provide a sense of remoteness and wildness.</p>
<p>Shared and recognised values</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>	5	<p>Bream Tail is a widely recognised feature, and the site shares an association with this unit. Locally, the unit is valued, particularly now access is facilitated by the walkway.</p>
<p>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</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>		<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



View south along Sentinal Rock coastline.



View north from Sentinel Rock coastline to Bream Tail.