

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>INNER KAIMAUMAU WETLAND</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION</b>	
<b>Component</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Land Types</b> (refer to list overleaf) Coastal plain Wetland	Part of a broad flat extending inland from East Beach, with dunefield deposition subtly evident.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	Pleistocene consolidated dunes and overlying swamp deposits
<b>Soil Types</b>	Ruakaka loamy peat, Ruakaka peaty sandy loam, and Tangitiki sandy loam and sand.
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	Area includes estuarine peat bog and semi-fertile swamps. Old kauri logs remain in some areas. Diversity of flora and fauna that includes a large number of threatened and regionally significant species. An important habitat for NI fernbird, Australasian bittern and other birds. Habitat for a number of threatened and regionally significant aquatic fauna and Northland green gecko. Being investigated for Ramsar status as a wetland of international significance.  Eastern and southern parts of the area (not within the defined ONL) are dominated by an exotic, fire-resistant canopy that reflects a history of repeated burning in those areas.
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Evidence of gumfield workings in a number of areas, including former diggers' campsites. Also areas of recorded Maori occupation and use.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> (including the identification of any specific characteristics)  An extensive and relatively inaccessible area of coastal and estuarine wetland that is closely associated with the substantial, exposed East Beach and Rangaunu Harbour. Part of an even larger extent of land administered by the Department of Conservation. The area defined as ONL is predominantly the wettest parts of that wider area and therefore focuses upon the wetland and bog parts of the broader sequence. As such, reedbeds, stunted wet shrublands and bog associations, along with estuarine / saltmarsh ecologies, are the key areas defined by this unit. The terrain is typically flat, but intervening areas are modestly raised and reflect the formative processes of the underlying consolidated dunefield. Geophysically related to the Tokerau / Rangaunu wetland on the opposite side of the harbour.  The unit deliberately excludes the drier portions of the DoC administered land, as these have generally suffered repeated fires and are now dominated by exotic, fire-tolerant species and have therefore lost most of their indigenous character. Some other excluded areas around the southern edge of the unit have been recently cleared and drained.	

## EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
<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 very distinctive landscape type that is a direct reflection of soil and moisture conditions, in this case predominantly excessively wet as a result of ponding over mineralised pans.

<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	It is well documented that there is a paucity of remaining wetland sites, and this location is a substantial example of that rare type. This is further reinforced by the number of threatened and regionally significant species present and the justification for seeking international RAMSAR recognition.
<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.	5	The area ONL is defined to represent the portion of the wider site that is least compromised by past repeated fires and the consequent domination by exotic tree and shrub species.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	Subtly diverse and complex, with that variety occurring primarily at an ecological level.
<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.	5	Very evocative and striking. An area of clear wetland origin with resulting distinctive vegetation association. The rarity of this landscape type leads to remaining examples of this scale having heightened memorability.
<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>	5	Entirely natural, other than past damage by fire and the influence of more extensively weed infested or drained areas of the swamp nearby.  Indigenous wetland species cover is continuous and discretely responds to shifts in soil moisture, structure and nutrient/ph regimes.
<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.	5	Very coherent, but with a history of burning that is likely to have had an impact on the composition of the recovered area.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	Extremely expressive through a distinctive and relatively simple landscape signature. The specific nature of wetland plant associations contributes to this high level of expressiveness.
<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).	3	A graphic landscape and ecology that is specific to its location. It is the very unusual characteristics of this site that contribute to its modest sensory qualities rating.
<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.	3	Primarily influenced by wind and light conditions. Close enough to the coast for the sand and wind borne salt to also reach inland.

<b>Remoteness / Wildness</b> Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<b>5</b>	An obscure and inaccessible location that can only be legitimately reached by a long walk. The expansiveness of the landscape combines with that lack of easy access to create a heightened sense of remoteness.
<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.	<b>2</b>	Whilst those with a particular interest in indigenous plant ecology or ornithology are likely to have an interest in the ONL, it is likely that few of the wider, general community are aware of its existence or values. There is a likelihood that the site is better known for its sequence of fires that have been publicized as being difficult and expensive to control, rather than the landscape and ecological values that were compromised by those fires.
<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.	<b>****</b>	Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period

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







