

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – MAUNGARAHO AND ASSOCIATED BUSH
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Volcanic cone (remains).	The unit comprises a highly visible and prominent volcanic feature, being the remains of a volcanic plug.
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	<p>Maungaraho Rock, is a distinctive and nationally significant landform in the area. It comprises a dike of Waitakere Group andesite intruding Mangakahia Complex mudstone and Motatau Complex muddy limestone.</p> <p>The Northland Geopreservation Inventory identifies the feature as being of particular significance as the largest dike in Tokatoka area. It also identifies the Maungaraho intrusive volcanic breccia. As being “a well exposed example of early Miocene volcanic breccia intruding Mahurangi Limestone”. The feature is also noted as containing examples of the unusual mineral harmotome and is a geopreservation site of national importance. (Kenny & Hayward 1996).</p>
Soil Types	The upper portion of the unit, excluding the bare rock is overlain with Huia steepland soils. Stony clay and silty stony clay, whilst the soil types for the balance of the unit comprise Motatau clay, Arapohue clay and Rockvale clay.
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	<p>The Maungaraho Rock Scenic Reserve and Surrounds (P08/034) is identified in the Tokatoka Ecological District PNAP survey as a Level 1 site. It comprises 6.8 ha of forest, and 9.8 ha of shrubland)</p> <p>It is noted as including the following Threatened and At Risk species; <i>Hebe saxicola</i> (Nationally Critical), <i>Daucus glochidiatus</i> (Nationally Critical) (Stanley 1997), <i>Senecio scaberulus</i> (Nationally Critical), <i>Picris burbridgeae</i> (Nationally Endangered, and <i>Korthalsella salicornoides</i> (Naturally Uncommon).</p> <p>In addition, the site is notable for the presence of four nationally Threatened, one At Risk and six Regionally significant plant species. The Nationally Critical <i>Hebe saxicola</i> is only known from Maungaraho Rock Scenic Reserve and is a new hebe species that has recently been described. It was previously thought to be <i>Hebe perbella</i>, a hebe restricted to the west coast of Northland.</p>
Archaeological sites	Not known
Heritage Landscapes	Not known
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small> Maungaraho is a very prominent and recognizable feature in the landscape, jutting from the riverine plain with an immediately recognizable form. Viewed from the majority of angles the feature is a symmetrical cone, clad with indigenous vegetation and forms a prominent ridge (200 m high) of resistant exposed rock surrounded by eroded softer sedimentary rocks. Viewed from the south west or north east, the rock displays a strikingly narrow form.	

The rock outcrop sits within a context of native bush, which 'rises' up towards the peak. The bush extends to the south west and is fenced to form a rectilinear shape.

Viewed from Mititai Road to the east, the contextual pastoral landform rises gradually to the rock peak. The open character, uninterrupted by built development does form a context for the feature, although the modified character of this pastoral landscape has led to its exclusion from the unit. As the viewer moves northwards along Mititai Road, the bush clad 'dome', capped by the rock peak is visible and the extent of the feature more evident.

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	This small but prominent feature is highly representative and a landmark, visible and recognizable from the surrounding landscape. In addition, it engenders a high level of recognition from the community and characterizes the area. The presence of native tree species and native fauna lend the feature a distinct endemic character. In addition, the recognition afforded this feature by the local community ensures that it contributes to the 'sense of place' for the community.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Although located in close proximity to Maungaraho, the feature, few other comparable examples exist in the region.
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.	3	The relationship between landform and vegetation, with the feature rising from the surrounding mantle of vegetation, lends Maungaraho a moderate level of coherence. The contextual areas of pasture, which occupy the rising land surrounding the unit tend to detract from its unity, and the regular edges of the rectangular area of remnant vegetation tend to impose an unnatural linearity on the landscape.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	3	The unit is relatively small in area, and isolated within the surrounding landscape. As such its diversity and complexity is constrained.
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 form and elevation of the feature contrasts with the surrounding landscape and as such it is a highly prominent and recognisable feature, visible from the surrounding landscape. The feature forms an isolated element within the landscape, but is enveloped within a surrounding area of native vegetation. The relationship between the vegetation and rock peak is contiguous within a defined area and is key to the character of the feature. Although the surrounding open pasture detracts from the naturalness of the unit, it also acts as a foreground and backdrop for the feature and the contrast between the feature and the pasture emphasizes its prominence.
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 associated built 	4	Dwellings and agricultural buildings nearby and associated with Mititai Road are evident within the landscape but these do not encroach on the feature. The areas of surrounding pasture do, on the other hand detract from the perception of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		<p>naturalness, as does the linearity of the fenced bush edges.</p> <p>Limerock tracks, characteristic of the rural area locally are visible within the surrounding paddocks. With the exception of tracks, and fenced field boundaries, infrastructure services are not evident.</p> <p>Native bush is associated with, and forms an important contextual component of the feature. Although the area is small, it does display a moderate strength of natural and ecological process.</p> <p>The topography of the unit is unmodified and highly legible.</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>	4	<p>Although small in area, the presence of primary growth vegetation with good succession growth and a multi layered structure demonstrates the operation of ecological processes. Natural ecological processes and unmodified character are evident.</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 feature is clearly recognizable as a volcanic feature and thus evidences the geological process and the erosive processes through which it was formed.</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>Like the nearby Tokatoka, views to the unit from distant locations experience the feature rising unexpectedly from the surrounding landscape are, whilst from more proximate locations it takes on a more dramatic quality.</p> <p>The view from the summit is spectacular, with the precipitous rock faces heightening the experience.</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>Flowering and fruiting of plants coinciding with feeding by native birds. Time of day (sun angle), weather and atmospheric conditions affect the character of the forest area.</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>The unit is relatively easily accessible via the roading network and nearby scattered dwellings and agricultural buildings detract from the sense of remoteness. The prevailing character is that of a working rural landscape.</p> <p>There is, however, a strong sense of remoteness that can be experienced on the summit, which is accessed by steep walking track.</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>The unit is a popular destination for local, regional and national visitors.</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</p>	5	<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>Mythology talks about the mountains Manaia, Maungaraho and Tokatoka, who once stood together in the ancestral land</p>

<p>associative activities valued by the community. These can include both activities and meanings 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>Hawaiki. Manaia urged them to travel across the ocean to New Zealand, so they raced across, but as the sun rose they were frozen. Then they were separated, Manaia, the largest travelled furthest and reached Whangarei, whilst Maungaraho, and Tokatoka are now close together on the Wairoa River.</p>
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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 Maungaraho from south west



View of Maungaraho from Maungaraho Road