

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – TAKOU BAY COAST	
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION		
Component	Comment	
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Bays and headlands Beach Reefs and islands	Particularly focused on the coastal sequence.	
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Small portions of sandy beach and river mouth estuary. Coastal margin of Waipapa Group greywacke and overlying weathered Kerikeri Volcanics (Horeke Basalt) lava flows.	
Soil Types	Otaha clay, Otaha gravelly friable clay, Whareora clay loam and Waitu friable clay.	
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	As an ecological area, this “site” in its wider form (that extends inland of the ONL) contains a diversity of habitat types, including several much diminished from their former extent. It involves a variety of habitat types (shrubland, estuary, dune and rocky shore) supporting several threatened species, and is a representative site for mangrove– <i>Leptocarpus</i> association. Important habitat for NI brown kiwi (Category A threatened species), NZ dotterel (Category B threatened species), Caspian tern (Category O threatened species), banded rail and possibly spotless crane (both regionally significant species).	
Archaeological sites	Two pa sites just to the south of the Takou River mouth. Concentration of archaeological sites around this river mouth and Tahoranui River a little further south.	
Heritage Landscapes		
Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics)		
<p>A landscape unit that is especially focused upon the characteristics of the coastal margin and related pockets of indigenous vegetation. This portion of shore involves a more gentle and less elevated flank than most of the adjacent areas. The coastal form contains a sequence of small estuaries / stream mouths; pocket beaches at Tapuwaitahi, Taronui and the mouth of the Tahoranui River; minor rocky headlands; and fringing reefs.</p> <p>The very distinctive lagoon at the northern end of Tapuwaitahi is a particularly unusual and evocative feature of this unit, particularly at low tide when its formation is most clearly expressed.</p>		

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.	4	Tapuwaitahi lagoon and the related headland are a defining feature of this segment of coast. An important area of habitat for a number of indigenous species.

Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Lagoon element very distinctive and rare.
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	Generally unified by repeated patterns and sequences. Weed species have an adverse effect upon indigenous vegetation on the coastal flank, although the native colonisation appears robust enough to eventually prevail.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	3	A range of ecological types are represented within the unit, some of which provide habitat for several species of threatened and regionally significant fauna.
Vividness 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.	4	The Tapuwaitahi lagoon is especially memorable and distinctive. Other portions of the unit have a measure of vividness through the interface between streams and coast, variety of ecologies and sequences of soft and hard shore.
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 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. 	3	Portions of this unit are overlooked by buildings, particularly the Tapuwaitahi embayment and the small beach immediately north of Taronui Bay, where a new residence has recently been constructed on the coastal flank. Invasive exotic vegetation and adjacent farming activities also suppress the level of naturalness found in this ONL. Coastal processes are apparently intact and there are no significant earthworks, infrastructure or other built modifications outside of the areas identified above.
Intactness 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.	3	Some eroding impact in areas overlooked by houses and settlement. Compromise brought by weed species amongst indigenous associations.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	4	The lagoon graphically conveys its formative origins. Similarly the erosive forces of the sea are reflected in the hard coast, whilst the soft shores display the influence of both wave energy and longshore currents, as well as the interface of stream/minor estuary mouths.
Sensory qualities (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).	4	The northern part of Tapuwaitahi is particularly evocative and creates a strong visual impression. The coastal nature of the unit means that there is often wave action and salt laden air on this semi-exposed shore.
Transient Values 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	Sea state and light conditions are the most influential transient driver.
Remoteness / Wildness Does the landscape display a wilderness character.		Whilst development at either end of the unit brings a sense

<p>remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of remoteness • Accessibility • Distance from built development 	4	<p>of being overlooked when on the coast, the central part of the ONL is isolated from those influences by small headlands and has an atmosphere of being relatively remote as a result. Access to this area is by foot only and appears restricted by the upper phase of the tide.</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>	4	<p>Tapuwaitapu lagoon is a well-known local coastal landmark, although public access is restricted by a locked barrier across the road.</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. 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> <p>The lagoon is anticipated to bring strong associative values, whilst Tapuwaitahi itself is well known as a semi-sheltered coastal holiday destination.</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



