

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – TWILIGHT BEACH / KAHOKAWA BEACH DUNEFIELDS, WETLANDS AND BUSH
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Bays and headlands Beach Dune complex Reefs and islands Wetland Watercourse	A varied coastal landscape taking in extensive dunefields and wetland areas, punctuated by substantial rocky headlands and associated hard coast.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Pleistocene consolidated dunes with underlying Tangihua Complex igneous rocks exposed in coastal cliffs (Scott Point headland and hills). Holocene dunefields with mobile transverse dunes (Twilight Beach and Dunes). NZ Geopres Inventory: Twilight Beach pillow lavas. Best preserved example of Cretaceous pillow lavas in Northland. Te Pahi sand dunes. Best preserved area of active dunes on Aupouri Peninsula. An extremely well defined landform of scientific/educational and scenic value.
Soil Types	Mangakahia mottled clay loam, Raniguru clay, Mangonui clay, Huia steepland soils, stony clay and stony silt loam, Pinaki sand, Okaka silty clay, Waikare silt loam and Wharekohe silt loam (and areas with a pan).
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	The Scott Point shrubland and coastal associations feature a range of ecological units and have been noted for their diversity and as a habitat for a number of threatened and regionally significant plant species. The area is noted for its importance as a buffer to adjacent farmland and between dunefield and wetland ecosystems. Good example of a nationally rare dune habitat type and unusual pohutukawa forest established on sand found in the 550ha Twilight Beach survey area. Other associations include <i>Spinifex</i> grasslands, pingao areas and coastal toetoe tussockland. Te Werahi wetland is the largest in Te Pahi Ecological District and is also one of the largest mineralised freshwater wetlands in Northland. It is recognised as a very important site for wetland birds and supports many nationally threatened and several regionally significant plants and animals.
Archaeological sites	Pa on Maungatiketike and Tehepouto Points (Taurangatira). Whilst there are approximately 30 recorded archaeological sites spaced primarily through the dune areas of this unit, these are of a much lower density than those found on many freshwater margins and eastern coastlines.
Heritage Landscapes	.

Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

A very diverse, remote and dynamic coastal landscape that is rarely subject to still sea conditions. Key elements are the exposed, rocky headlands of Maungatike Point and Scott Point, the ocean shores of Twilight Beach and the northern sector of Ninety Mile Beach with their associated expansive dunefields, Te Paki Stream and Te Werahi Stream, lagoons and wetland. Whilst geomorphologically and ecologically distinct, these elements combine to create a distinctive identity that spans south from Cape Maria van Diemen.

Vegetation cover is spartan due to exposure and the mobile nature of much of the terrain. Stunted shrubland, wetland associations, foredune sandbinding ecologies, sandy riparian vegetation and maritime flank cover and a pocket of inland shrubland / forest are present, indicating the range of conditions found within this unit.

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	Contains a range of landscape and ecotype elements, each of which is important and representative of the wider landscape of the northwestern part of the region. Collectively, these systems are definitive and entirely prevailing in the character of this ONL.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	Contains many composite parts which are unusual or rare; together they contribute to a coastal landscape that is distinctive and uncommon.
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.	5	Despite being composed of a number of elements and supported by a range of geological underpinnings and soil types, this landscape is highly coherent, probably because the natural conditions of the site continue to shape it, both physically and in the ecological responses to local conditions.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	Very complex and diverse, once again as a result of the variety of shaping forces and the response of the ecology to those forces.
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.	5	Extremely distinctive and memorable. A big, wild landscape that is battered by west coast salt spray, wind and sand deposition.
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. 	5	Entirely free of built structures with the exception of a few small access steps and bridges associated with the Cape Reinga walkway, the formation of the track itself and farm fencing around the grazed perimeter of eastern part of this landscape sequence. Similarly the vegetation associations are largely indigenous, with limited incursions by invasive exotic species. The most widespread is kikuyu that has originated from adjacent farmland. Natural processes, in the form of coastal process, dune formation, and the flow and ebb of wetlands and watercourse are predominantly intact and responsive to natural forces. Te Paki Stream bed somewhat influenced by a steady flow

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform. Presence of water. 		<p>of vehicular traffic.</p> <p>Relatively inaccessibly and likely to be lightly visited, with the most intensively used areas thought to be northern 90 Mile Beach and Te Paki Stream area which are accessible by cars and buses.</p>
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.	5	Highly intact and cohesive.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	Very graphic and expressive of the influence of salt and sand laden westerly quarter winds. Most lucidly expressed by the substantial dunes alongside the Te Paki Stream and the extensive area of mobile sand immediately to the north.
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).	5	A strongly experiential landscape, with the almost constant roar of the west coast beaches, salty and gritty winds, traversing the Te Paki Stream and expansive spaces. Extensive areas of exposed sand also create glare in bright conditions.
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.	5	Responsive to climatic conditions, particularly wind. Character of the area is shifted by exposure to a westerly gale through to the very rare times when there is a small sea state on the west coast. Light intensity and angle on the dune sands is also a highly variable influence upon experience of this landscape.
Remoteness / Wildness Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sense of remoteness Accessibility Distance from built development 	5	Quite accessible by vehicle at its southern extent, but very remote and accessible only on foot for the majority of the unit to the north
Shared and recognised values 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.	4	<p>The southern part of this unit around Te Paki is well known, being famous as the departing or entry point for moving along the beach by vehicle and for dune surfing. For most visitors the sensation of being driven along a sandy creek bed in a bus would be novel.</p> <p>A very limited number of people who access this unit at its northern end means that the characteristics of that area are not widely known or appreciated.</p>
Spiritual, cultural and historical associations 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>A feature of the experience of driving along 90 Mile Beach is driving through the Te Paki Stream, which is within this unit.</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









