

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – PERPENDICULAR POINT TO GREVILLE POINT (MT CAMEL) COAST
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Bays and headlands Beach Dune complex Reefs and islands	A complex sequence that is anchored around the southern face of Mt Camel and runs through segments of coastal escarpments around Stanley Point and Farmer Point, intercepted by small embayments and beaches. Reefs and small islets are a recurrent feature of the rocky segments of the coast. Kowhai Beach is a more substantial exposed beach type backed by an extensive belt of dunes (and could equally be associated with the Henderson Bay sandy coast immediately to the north).
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	Deeply weathered Houhora Complex volcanic and greywacke rock. Kowhai Beach has Holocene dunes that overlay Pleistocene leached and consolidated sand. Location of two NZ Geopreservation sites: Perforated Point overturned fold – a faulted macroscopic, isoclinal syncline within the Mount Camel terrane exposed on coast around Perforated Point. Just north is the Mount Camel terrane volcanoclastics, a well-exposed, thin bedded flysch with upward fining pyroclastic beds at the southern end of Kowhai Beach.
Soil Types	Maungarei clay and Parakiore steepland soils, stony clay loam.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	Extensive areas of indigenous shrubland and smaller pockets of broadleaf forest on coastal slopes and valleys. Includes a number of species that are threatened, endemic or restricted distribution. Kowhai dunefields have a strong population of pingao, which is a nationally threatened habitat. Kowhai Beach has at least five threatened bird species.
Archaeological sites	Contains a string of pa along prominent ridges and headlands associated with the coast. Also notable for numerous recorded sites across the entire unit, with particular intensity around Perforated Point, Farmer Point and the coast running west up the harbour mouth from Perpendicular Point.
Heritage Landscapes	Historic cemetery inside the mouth of the harbour and just outside of this unit
Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics) Mt Camel acts as a local beacon, signaling the existence of Houhora and the harbour mouth from a considerable distance to the south. Its dark colouring derives from kanuka shrubland, with blocks of indigenous broadleaf and areas of pine plantation adjacent but outside of this unit. The outer, eastern coastline that makes up the majority of the ONL features large scarps that sequence into small and moderately sized sandy embayments. Reefs and wavecut platforms are a feature of parts of the hard coast and frequently associated with small rocks or islets positioned immediately offshore. Other segments of the rocky shore drop steeply into moderately deep water and the nearby rocks offshore stand in isolation. Much of the coastal landform features spurs that run seaward that have been sharply cut by wave action to create steep portions of the steep flanks that are a recurrent theme. Terrain inland of embayments is typically more gentle. Kowhai Bay is a distinct and rather different termination to the unit running north. This is a semi-extensive ocean beach with a substantial inland dune field, some of which appears to be highly mobile.	

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	A strong local identity that is also somewhat common with other segments of hard coast on the eastern shoreline. Distinctive, slightly rounded hard material which is largely exposed, limited coastal vegetation and a simple, yet diverse landscape signature. Mt Camel acts as a landmark across a wider area of related CMA and when seen across the relatively flat inland terrain that is common on the eastern side of the Aupouri Peninsula.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	The geology and arrangement of this coast, as expressed within the ONL as drafted, is distinct to this area
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	Repetition of coastal formations and similar underlying materials – with the exception of those sands and dunes found at Kowhai Bay – provide a measure of coherence, as does the pastoral cover that unites the central part of this unit.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	Relatively complex in terms of coastal morphology and alignment, shore types, vegetation patterns / composition
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	A memorable portion of coastal landscape whose most prominent element in the form of Mt Camel is a distinctive peak that is well known. The balance of the ONL is unlikely to be well known by many outside of those local people who are involved in boating, visiting vessels and those working on the adjacent agricultural and forestry land.
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. 	4	Predominantly natural in terms of an absence of built development or significant earthworks or infrastructure within the unit. Pastoral areas and pine plantation are immediately adjacent, and a mussel farm is situated in Houhora Bay. These activities, whilst more “natural” than buildings and other structural development, bring a productive character to related areas. The unit features a dynamic relationship with the coast and has an unfettered response to the natural processes brought by the sea.
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	Whilst the unit generally has a coherent landscape signature, components of that imagery, particularly pastoral grassland, bring an element of human modification and manipulation. Some areas, such as near Stanley Point and Kowhai Bay are more divorced from such influences and can therefore be considered to be more intact that is indicated here.

Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	4	High level of expressiveness resulting from coastal interface
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	Strongly influenced by coastal process, wave energy and exposure to the elements generally. Lighting conditions affect the prominence and legibility of the Mt Camel Peak, whilst the dunefield and beach area are also influenced by light characteristics.
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.	4	Particularly tied to the state of the sea, which ranges from placid through to severe. Generally the wave environment is less dramatic than further north or on the adjacent west coast shoreline.
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 	4	Whilst not far from the settled areas associated with the harbour, this unit is physically isolated, whilst the landform severs visually connections back to the west.
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	Mount Camel a widely recognised landmark and feature standing above the adjacent low segment of the Aupouri Peninsula. Likely to also have some resonance with those who use the area for boating activity.
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. 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.	***	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)

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





