

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – PARENGARENGA MOUTH TO HOOPER POINT
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types (refer to list overleaf) Coastal cliffs / escarpment Bays and headlands Dune complex Beach Reefs and islands Wetland	Contains a wide range of types, with all being in a predominantly natural state and very clearly represented.
Geology (including geopreservation sites)	<p>Parengarenga Group sandstone, mudstone and bluff-forming igneous conglomerate, Mangakahia Complex sandstone, mudstone and limestone, with Pleistocene consolidated sand forming a veneer on Taumataroa Flat and adjacent ridge-tops, and Pleistocene intertidal and estuarine sands forming low terraces bordering Parengarenga Harbour.</p> <p>Wetland areas are ponded by Holocene foredunes, which are overlying eroded Pleistocene consolidated and eroded dune sand.</p> <p>Coastal hill country is of Tangihua Complex igneous rocks forming an anticlinal core below unconformably overlying Parengarenga Group stratigraphic sequence of mudstone bluff-forming igneous conglomerate and minor deeply weathered and podzolised sandstone.</p> <p>NZ Geopres. Inventory: Te Huka Beach and Kurahaupo Rocks Lower Miocene sediments – Deep water fine-grained sediments overlain by volcanoclastic conglomerates. Considered the best exposed sequence through most of the Parengarenga Group.</p>
Soil Types	Te Kopuru sand; Ohia sand; Ruakaka peaty sandy loam; Hurewai fine sandy loam; Te Hapua fine sandy loam; Kapuwairua clay and silty clay; Rangiuru reddish brown clay; Mangonui clay; Apongo clay; eroded remains of Te Kopuru sand; and Huia steepland soils and stony clay and stony silt loam.
Ecology (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>The Unuwahao Bush and Shrubland is a forest and shrubland complex that comprises 6 ecological units. It plays a vital linking role between the wetlands and various bush remnants in Te Paki Ecological District, acting as a corridor for the recruitment and dispersal of the less mobile native species. The site contains landsnails that are threatened endemics in Te Paki Ecological District, supports one of only three sites for the threatened Te Paki endemic ground beetle <i>Mecodema</i> sp. "Te Paki", and contains many threatened plant species. It is a representative site for all vegetation types that have been defined.</p> <p>Whareana Bay is a habitat of <i>Spinifex</i> grassland on dunes. It includes a managed population of the acutely threatened endemic herb <i>Atriplex hollowayi</i>. Along with a number of other endangered, declining and vulnerable plant species, this part of the unit has particular value for shorebirds and several landsnail species, four of which are at various levels of threat. It is deemed to be a representative, unmodified, nationally threatened habitat type which supports threatened and regionally significant species.</p>

	<p>In the swamp of Waihakari Wetland, raupo associations prevail, whilst oioi rushland occurs in adjacent areas of wet sand. It is deemed to be a nationally uncommon habitat type in a remote spot with minimal modification. The area is a representative site for oioi rushland. Approximately 0.7 ha of this site is within a 'Chronically Threatened' land environment.</p> <p>Ngakengo Beach supports 4 ecological units: <i>Spinifex</i> grassland on foredune; dunefield; oioi-coastal toetoe tussock-sedgeland on dunes; and sand sedge sedgeland on damp sand flats.</p> <p>A number of seabird species that are threatened or of regional significance use this area as habitat or for roosting.</p> <p>It has been assessed as being an unmodified dune system representative of a rare habitat type and outstanding habitat for threatened shorebirds; and for threatened and regionally significant flora that have also been recorded. It is a representative site for all the vegetation types that are present.</p>
Archaeological sites	<p>A number of pa are identified in this unit, including at Otu Hill, Mokaikai pa, Tomakainga pa, and a further 10 within or just inland of the ONL. Still more are located on gentle peaks in close proximity.</p> <p>The entire Te Paki / North Cape area has a substantial number of recorded archaeological sites, and this part of it is consistent with that broader pattern, with many dozen identified. The area of coast between Tom Bowling Bay and Hooper Point has the largest intensity of sites, but areas inland and outside of this ONL demonstrate an even greater level of past use and habitation.</p>
Heritage Landscapes	<p>Past history of burning and agriculture over most of Te Paki. Extensive archaeological evidence of pre European use of the area.</p>
<p>Landscape characterisation (including the identification of any specific characteristics)</p> <p>A diverse and powerful coastal landscape that extends from the northern mouth of the Parengarenga Harbour to Hooper Point, immediately east of Spirits Bay (but excludes the North Cape landmass and its connecting tobolo).</p> <p>It includes a wide range of coastal landscape components in a cohesive whole, including exposed ocean beaches, extensive dunefields, backdune wetlands, wooded coastal flanks, rugged rocky shores, cliffs and bluffs, intertidal reefs along its northern extent. Vegetation relationships are similarly varied, comprising areas of foredune dominated by <i>Spinifex</i> associations, backdune rush and sedge prevalent areas, wetland vegetation, manuka shrubland, scattered pohutukawa and pockets of broadleaf/hardwood forest. The subtle interrelationships between the land forms and its vegetation cover lead to a diverse but cohesive landscape pattern that is evocative of this particular part of the coast.</p> <p>The outer extents of Te Paki are exposed to extremes of weather, being often battered by large seas and high winds. The morphology of the coast and vegetative responses to those conditions are very evident; indeed the landscape is an explicit representation of its shaping forces. Water clarity is a feature of these northern-most areas, with the colour and clearness of the sea contributing to the landscape character of this ONL.</p> <p>The cultural dimension of this land is communicated by a number of pa sites and extensive archaeological evidence.</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.	5	Entirely characteristic of the coast of the apex of the country. The assemblages outlined above are almost entirely indigenous and bring a landscape character that is representative of the context of this unit.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Components that are largely uncommon in their own right are composed in sequences that are rare and unusual. Provides habitat for a number of rare and threatened organisms.
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	Very unified and cohesive. Essentially almost no unnatural, disparate elements present. A small area of pasture at the eastern end of Tom Bowling Bay is the only extent of land cover that is not apparently natural.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	Highly diverse, yet correspondingly unified in its composition and appearance. A direct response to natural conditions.
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 vivid and graphic. Inaccessibility severely limits the number of people that can experience this landscape, but it remains highly memorable regardless.
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. 	5	There are no evident buildings, infrastructure or exotic production vegetation in this ONL, with the exception of kikuyu pasture on the flanks at the western end of Tom Bowling Bay. Some past grazing by cattle, pigs and horses has been recorded and it is unclear whether this still continues. Natural forces prevail and are graphically represented in the character of the landscape that results. Landform remains entirely intact in terms of human intervention. The area has a history of burning and failed agriculture, but is recovering from that past impact to a point where it is no longer evident.
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	Extremely intact and natural.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	Graphically expressive. Natural processes of wind transport, wave attack and natural erosion are dynamic and almost daily in this exposed area.
Sensory qualities		Strong interaction with the landscape, both visually and

(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	through other senses. However the challenges of access means this area is only very lightly visited.
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	Highly responsive to sea conditions and light angles / intensity, particularly in those areas that feature dunes. Limited seasonal shift.
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	One of the most remote parts of Northland. Difficult to land by boat and roading is private and locked. Almost nobody lives here.
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.	3	Likely to be familiar to those living on the Parengarenga and wider area, and possibly amongst people with family connections to this land. Otherwise it is probable that few people that lack a strong local knowledge would be aware of this area.
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.	***	Likely to be a strong cultural relationship with this land and coast. 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





