

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – OHAKIRI / ST PAUL'S ROCK	
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION		
Component	Comment	
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Steep hills; moderate to high relief	Rises to an altitude of 213m.	
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small>	Coastal hills of Tupou Complex greywacke, with Whangaroa Group, with andesitic breccia forming the prominent bluffed knoll of Ohakiri. NZ Geopres Inventory: St Pauls dome-shaped hill, Whangaroa. Classified as an extremely well defined landform of scenic value.	
Soil Types	Marua clay loam	
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	Kanuka and kikuyu prevail on the upper slopes, phasing to pockets of coastal broadleaf (particularly taraire) forest on the lower flanks. The south west quarter includes scattered puriri, rewarewa, pohutukawa, tawa, karaka, titoki, and towai.	
Archaeological sites	Site of a major pa which extends some distance downhill from the central dome. Ohakiri and its immediate setting are recorded as having almost a dozen archaeological sites.	
Heritage Landscapes	Overlooks one of Northland's most historic coastal settlements.	
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small> A monumental peak that towers over the original core of Whangaroa township on the water's edge below. More recent, scattered residential development has ascended the flanks of the peak and is in relatively close proximity to the upper slopes of the landform. The solid andesitic monolith is seen to thrust from the ground in a dramatic form and is typically witnessed against a backdrop of sky from most vantage points. It is visible from some distance and acts as a beacon for the location of the township. It also has a close relationship with the harbour, being a dominant feature when experienced from the upper part of the waterbody. Associated development patterns are seen to have a more dominant presence in relation to Ohakiri in this upstream area, but when witnessed from down nearer the mouth of the harbour (around Milford and Peach islands), the pine-clad headland of Kaheka Point forms a vegetated foreground to the peak and it takes on a more intact character. Indigenous vegetation patterns serve to create a frame to the apex and provide a somewhat fragmented link down to the riparian margins and to surrounding landforms. This is particularly so to the south of the ONL. There are a number of tracks to the summit from the lower slopes and the location provides panoramic views over the harbour and its hinterland.		

EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
Natural Science Factors		
Representativeness <small>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.</small>	4	An integral part of Whangaroa village's character and identity. The settlement, in turn, can be seen as one of Northland's distinguishing small coastal settlements.

Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	An unusual landscape by virtue of its geology, but not unique, with other similar forms found locally and elsewhere in Northland.
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	Linked the lower slopes outside of the ONL by belts of indigenous vegetation, particularly to the south. However, the progression of housing and related development up the slope, combined with varied land cover around the balance of the cone have constrained the extent of the unit and the overall coherence of the setting.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	An interesting mixture of parent geology, overlaid and eroded soils and indigenous vegetation associations.
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	A dramatic feature that is immediately recognizable as a result of projecting onto the skyline, and as a result of its emphatic form. Its relationship with the village and harbour beyond further strengthens that memorability.
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	The unmodified geology, land profile (other than the pa site) and presence of belts of native vegetation all bring a measure of naturalness to this landscape. Nearby housing, roads, infrastructure and general domestic development serve to compromise naturalness to some extent.
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	Diminished by mixed land cover and the proximity of settlement.
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	4	Highly legible and graphic in terms of the formative processes that led to the existence of Ohakiri.
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	A powerful visual cue and focus that reinforces the presence of the small settlement at its base.
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	Responsive to varying light conditions through the day and between seasons. Those varying "moods" and presence influence the atmosphere of a wider area.

<p>Remoteness / Wildness 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 	2	Closely related to adjacent settlement, although ascending the peak allows one to be above the residential area and to enjoy an extensive panorama.
<p>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.</p>	5	An integral part of the identity of Whangaroa settlement and the upper Whangaroa harbour.
<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. 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.</p>	***	<p>Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.</p> <p>Historic connections with the village and harbour. Site of an extensive pa.</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





