

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>MAUNGATAPERE</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> Volcanic cones land type	One of a sequence of volcanic cones, which form a family of features and characterise the landscape to the west of Whangarei.
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)  Mangatapere scoria cone	<p>The three large scoria cones of <b>Maunu, Maungatapere</b> and <b>Maungakaramea</b>, were produced as part of a second period of basalt eruptions between 300 000 to 500 000 years ago at a similar time to the four cones to the west of Kamo, and three to the east. More precisely, Mangatapere was formed <math>0.29 \pm 0.05</math> my.</p> <p>The site is listed as being of national geopreservation importance (Kenny and Hayward. 1993) which states that the feature is "...<i>the largest and best preserved in the Whangarei field</i>". It notes that the height of the feature is 359 m, but that the cone is 185 m above sea level.</p>
<b>Soil Types</b>	<p>The unit mainly comprises Papakauri silt loam, and Kiripaka bouldery silty loam.</p> <p>The cone is listed as a soil site of regional importance since the area is a good example of Papakauri red loam (Arand et al. 1993).</p>
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	Identified in the Whangarei Ecological District PNAP survey as Level 1 site Q06/032, this site includes 65 ha of forest and 6.7 ha of shrubland. It is reported that the site includes both volcanic broadleaved forest and swamp forest, the latter being accommodated within the crater. Both of these are nationally rare forest types. In addition, the cone is a representative site for totara shrubland, manuku-towai shrubland, mamuku fernland, taraire-totara forest, taraire-tawa forest, taraire-totara-towai forest and taraire forest. It is also the only site in the Ecological District where towai-mamuku-totara forest, mapou-karamu forest and maire tawake-pukatea swamp forest have been recorded.
<b>Archaeological sites</b>	Pukeatua pa is located on elevated land to the north east.
<b>Heritage Landscapes</b>	The site and its surrounds have links to early settlement, with, in 1839, the purchase of land in the Maungatapere area land from Te Tirarau by Thomas Elmsley and the Walton Brothers, Henry and Charles. Henry Walton established his farm on the slopes of the cone, naming the farm 'Maungatapere Park'. (N.P. Pickmere).
<b>Landscape characterisation</b> (including the identification of any specific characteristics)	
<p>The Maungatapere cone is an almost perfect steep sided cone which, unlike many of the other cones within the Whangarei field has not been quarried or modified to a significant extent by farming. The majority of the feature – being the mid and upper slopes – retains a forested cover.</p> <p>Within the wider context, the cone forms a single feature within the 'family' of nearby and more distant cones contained within the Whangarei field, with the inter-relationship between the other cones being of importance both terms of landscape character and culturally.</p> <p>Locally, the Maungatapere cone forms a way marker on SH14 between Dargaville and Whangarei as well as characterizing the nearby Maungatapere settlement. The view of the cone from the State Highway to the east of the settlement is of particular importance and illustrates the scale of the feature and its spatial relationship with the town (refer to photo below).</p>	

<b>EVALUATION</b>		
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Natural Science Factors</b>		
<b>Representativeness</b> 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.	<b>5</b>	The cones within the Whangarei volcanic field are important features which typify and lend identity to the area. Whilst a number are unknown or lesser known due to their scale or lack of prominence, some – including Maungatapere – are widely known. This cone clearly represents a member of the family of volcanic cones and is widely recognised as such.
<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	<b>5</b>	Whilst a number of cone features exist within the Whangarei, Far North and Kaipara Districts, on a national scale these features are relatively rare.
<b>Aesthetic Values</b>		
<b>Coherence</b> 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.	<b>4</b>	The Maungatapere cone is the least modified representative of the family of cones and retains a high level of coherence. This is a consequence of the uniform shape of the feature, the lack of landform modification and lack of vegetation clearance.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	<b>4</b>	As described above, a diverse range of vegetation types are evident on the feature. These types reflect the variations in underlying soils, the aspect, gradient and level of exposure and indicates a good level of diversity and complexity.
<b>Vividness</b> Natural features and landscape are widely recognised 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.	<b>5</b>	The scale and form of the cone, in relation to the surrounding gently undulating farmland (to all but the south east) tends to emphasise the contrast between the feature and its immediate context. For this reason, and due to the high level of exposure afforded by the State Highway which passes the feature on its north western side, and other roads in the vicinity, the feature displays a highly vivid and memorable character.
<b>Naturalness</b> How affected by human activity is the landscape? Does human activity intrude on the landscape? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of buildings and associated built development.</li> <li>• Presence of infrastructure services.</li> <li>• Extent of indigenous forest cover.</li> <li>• Homogeneity of exotic vegetation.</li> <li>• Presence / extent of modified agricultural land use.</li> <li>• Strength of natural processes / ecological patterns.</li> <li>• Unmodified and legible physical relief and landform.</li> <li>• Presence of water.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<b>4</b>	Although the rural area surrounding the cone, and the gentle lower slopes have been modified and assume a cultivated character, the steeper mid and upper slopes retain an unmodified and natural appearance.  In a situation such as this, where the feature has a distinctive and legible form, it is easier to contemplate a defined line between the modified portion of the feature and the natural. This division on the Maungatapere cone is clear and the mid and upper slopes indicate a good strength of natural processes and natural patterns.
<b>Intactness</b> 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.	<b>4</b>	The mid and upper slopes of the cone retain a high level of intactness with little modification of these most visible parts of the feature.

<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	<b>5</b>	The form of the feature clearly demonstrates its origin and formative processes.
<b>Sensory qualities</b> (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).	<b>5</b>	The form of the cone and its highly visibility and prominence contribute to the sensory quality of the feature. In addition to this, the contiguous cover of native forest on the mid and upper slopes differentiate this feature from others and add to the experience.
<b>Transient Values</b> 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.	<b>2</b>	Limited evidence of transient values evident, although changes in light angle and light conditions resulting from temporal and climatological changes are of importance.

<b>Remoteness / Wildness</b> Does the landscape display a wilderness character, remote from and untouched by human presence? Eg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of remoteness</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Distance from built development</li> </ul>	<b>2</b>	The cone is a relatively small scale feature within a highly modified and occupied rural area. A limited sense of remoteness can be gained from being 'within' the landscape, but it is difficult to achieve separation between it and the surrounding landscape.
<b>Shared and recognised values</b> 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.	<b>5</b>	The cone is a widely recognised feature and is highly visible due to the alignment of State Highway 14. It characterizes, and shares a name with the nearby settlement and forms part of the wider linked family of cones within the Whangarei field.
<b>Spiritual, cultural and historical associations</b> 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.	<b>3</b>	Consultation was initiated during the mapping process, but has not led to any feedback within the required period.  Pukeatua pa located on elevated land to the north east.  The unit is a prominent feature from the surrounding area including from the State Highway. It has lent its name to the nearby settlement of Maungatapere and is likely to be valued by the local community.

Rank scale between 1 (low) and 5 (high)

<b>Land Types</b>
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



**Maungatapere from State Highway 14**



**Maungatapere from Snooks Road**