

Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – PUKEHOHE HILL RESERVE
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
Land Types <small>(refer to list overleaf)</small> Volcanic cone (remains). Steep hills: moderate high relief.	<p>The unit comprises a locally prominent peak at its southern end which rises to a height of 201 metres. From this high point the land falls to the north.</p> <p>The upper slopes are riven by a steep sided gully and the watercourse within this drains to the north into the Manganui River.</p>
Geology <small>(including geopreservation sites)</small> Manaia / Bream Head stratovolcano	Mangakahia Complex mudstone/sandstone.
Soil Types	<p>The elevated portion of the unit is overlain by White cone steepland soils, sandy clay loam, whilst the soils on the eastern and western flanks of the hill comprise Aponga clay.</p> <p>The scenic reserve area is listed as a soil site of regional importance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containing soil-forest associations that are largely undisturbed • Containing good examples of an uncommon soil type—White-Cone soils. <p>(Arand et al. 1993)</p>
Ecology <small>(including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)</small>	<p>The unit is identified in the Tokatoka Ecological District PLAP report as Q08/022. It comprises an area of 209.1 ha, being 122.3 ha forest, 81.8 ha shrubland, and 5 ha wetland</p> <p>The Pukekohe Hill Scenic Reserve contains some areas of unmodified kauri-podocarp/broadleaf forest on the upper slopes with large old growth specimens of kauri, kahikatea, mataī, tōtara, rewarewa and pūriri.</p> <p>The reserve supports Threatened, At Risk and Regionally significant species and is complemented by a sizeable area of shrubland in the north. Shrubland areas can provide important habitat for threatened species including orchids, NI brown kiwi and lizards. The two artificial lakes in the north provide habitat for waterfowl and there are historical records of threatened species.</p>
Archaeological sites	Not known.
Heritage Landscapes	Not known.
Landscape characterisation <small>(including the identification of any specific characteristics)</small>	
<p>Located some 8 km north of Paparoa, this feature rises to a height of 201 metres and includes the headwaters of the Waitotira Stream. The contextual landscape to the north, west and south is strongly undulating with strong patterning provided by native bush remnants within stream valleys and by exotic vegetation. The topography restricts views from the surrounding area such that glimpses of the feature are revealed until. To the east, the landscape is similarly undulating but is more open and pastoral in character.</p>	

The feature is visible for a considerable distance by virtue of its elevation and extent of vegetation.

It comprises an extensive area of indigenous native forest and is protected as a scenic reserve.

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.	3	The elevation and form of the hill enable the unit to be seen from a considerable catchment, but it is the vegetation cover that characterise it and present a strongly representative Northland character.
Rarity Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	4	Few examples of features of this scale and area of vegetation cover remain in the area / ecological district.
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.	4	Vegetation covering the feature clearly reflects the underlying topographical and hydrological patterns. This evidences a high level of coherence. The surrounding landscape has been modified, through vegetation clearance for agricultural purposes.
Diversity & Complexity The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	4	The presence of primary growth vegetation with good succession growth and a multi layered structure demonstrates the healthy operation of ecological processes and a good level of diversity and complexity.
Vividness 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.	3	Whilst of modest height the feature contrasts with the surrounding landscape and landform such that it assumes a certain prominence and draws the eye. From more distant locations the feature is glimpsed when travelling along the roading network, but viewed from Bull Road and from Araua Road its scale is more apparent and striking.
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 feature and its immediate context are devoid of buildings. With the exception of Bull Road, on the north eastern margin of the feature, infrastructure services do not intrude on the feature. The feature is almost entirely forested, with the exception of a small area of pasture on the summit, and its lower slopes. The surrounding area is extensively modified by agricultural land use, however, with the exception of the ridge top, cleared with an area of pasture, and the lower slopes (including an area on the eastern side between the feature and Bull Road where shrubland is regularly cleared for grazing.
Intactness Natural systems are intact and aesthetically coherent and do not display significant visual signs	4	The unit is protected by its Reserve status and is therefore highly intact.

of human modification, intervention or manipulation, visually intact and highly aesthetic natural landscapes.		
Experiential Values		
Expressiveness The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	4	Although not dramatic in terms of its expressiveness, the formative hydrological processes, and ongoing ecological processes are clearly evident.
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).	3	Views of the unit are available from the surrounding landscape and it forms a focus, albeit sometimes distant for many of those views.
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.	3	Transient values include the flowering and fruiting of plants coinciding with feeding by native birds. The appearance of the unit is also be affected by the time of day (sun angle), weather and atmospheric conditions.

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 	2	The area has a rural character with a limited number of scattered buildings within the landscape. It is however an obviously working landscape, and therefore has a limited remote or wild character.
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.	5	The unit is likely to be recognised and valued as a Reserve.
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.	5	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



View of Pukekohe Hill Reserve from north west



View of Pukekohe Hill Reserve from west