

# Northland Regional Landscape Assessment Worksheet

	Unit name – <b>TUTAMOE / KAIHU / MARLBOROUGH FOREST</b>
DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISATION	
Component	Comment
<b>Land Types</b> (refer to list overleaf)  Volcanic cone (remains). Steep hills: moderate high relief.	<p>The elevated and forested ranges associated with this unit are representative of the forested ranges of the upper Northland region and have an association with other forested ranges such as Waipoua and Waima.</p> <p>The flattened profile of Tutamoe – the second highest point in Northland, at some 770 m asl – is often seen as a low dark form on the horizon, is a recognisable and characteristic feature throughout the region.</p>
<b>Geology</b> (including geopreservation sites)	<p>The Marlborough Forest is characterised by dissected plateau of Waipoua Subgroup basaltic lava flows underlain in the northeast by Tangihua Complex igneous rocks.</p> <p>The Kaihu Forest comprises a dissected plateau of Waipoua Subgroup basaltic lava flows underlain by Tangihua Complex igneous rocks and Mangakahia Complex mudstone and sandstone.</p>
<b>Soil Types</b>	<p>The unit displays a relatively simple pattern of soil types. The majority of the upper slopes within the unit are overlain by Tutamoe friable clays, whilst soils on the lower slopes comprise Te Kie Steepland soils – sandy clay loam and reddish clay loam. Valley bottoms are characterized by the presence of Waimatenui clay.</p>
<b>Ecology</b> (including protected vegetation / features, PNAP Level 1 and 2 sites)	<p>The Kaihu Forest is identified as P07/001 in the Tutamoe Ecological District PNAP report. The Level 1 site comprises 5,155.7ha of forest and 106.7ha of shrubland).</p> <p>The PNAP report states that the Kaihu Forest is one of the best examples of northern upland plateau west coast forest in Northland.</p> <p>The forest and associated shrubland areas are defined by a steep-sided swampy plateau containing the second highest point in Northland, the Tutamoe summit (770m asl).</p> <p>The forest displays a large floral diversity including unmodified kauri which includes possibly the highest altitude stand (640m asl) of kauri in Northland (pers. comm. J. Nicholls, sighted in Forester and Cummings 1984). The largest kauri ever recorded, Kairaru, occurred south-east of Mt Tutamoe however this tree was burnt during the fires of the late 1800s. Logging was confined to the southeastern portion of the Kaihu Forest (Forester and Cummings 1984).</p> <p>The forest supports several threatened and regionally significant flora and fauna species. NI brown kiwi are present in moderately high densities in the upper Waingarara Stream catchment (Whatoro).</p> <p>The Marlborough Forest site is identified as P06/042 in the Tutamoe Ecological District PNAP report. It is a Level 1 site and comprises 5,675.9 ha of forest, and 303.7 ha of shrubland</p> <p>The site includes six ecological units, these being;                      (a) Towai-taraire forest on moderate hillslope</p>

	<p>(b) Kanuka/manuka-towai shrubland on moderate hillslope</p> <p>(c) Taraire-tawa forest on moderate hillslope</p> <p>(d) Towai forest on moderate hillslope and high altitude plateau</p> <p>(e) Tawa-tawari-towai forest on hillslope</p> <p>(f) Kohekohe-taraire-tawa-towai forest on hillslope</p> <p>The Marlborough Forest is of significance due to the presence of areas of mature modified kauri and broadleaf-podocarp forest (as a result of fires and logging) as well as unmodified broadleaf-podocarp forest. The PNAP report notes that this forest is one of the best examples of northern upland plateau west coast forest in Northland. The PNAP also states that the forest is particularly important for kiwi and many Trounson subadult birds disperse to the forest. High densities of kiwi occur east to Hokonui Road where predators are being controlled by Carter Holt Harvey Forests.</p>
Archaeological sites	<p>The area has been historically populated and settled and numerous archaeological and cultural sites exist within the units.</p> <p>The Waoku Coach road is a more recent European feature of archaeological interest.</p>
Heritage Landscapes	Not known.

### Landscape characterisation

(including the identification of any specific characteristics)

The unit features extensive areas of elevated pristine native forest, broadly rolling upland. Some portions, such as the Kaihu Forest /Tutamoe are notable for the precipitous vegetated slopes and largely flat and extensive summit and provide a backdrop to an extensive area to the south and east which forms a characterising component for that the landscape.

Kaihu Forest and the associated shrubland areas are defined by a steep-sided swampy plateau containing the second highest point in Northland, the Tutamoe summit (770m asl).

As a whole, the ranges form part of a wider and powerful sequence of primarily native forests that extend from the Warawara Forest, down the west coast to include the Waima Forest, Waipoua, Mataraua Forest, Kaihu Forest and Marlborough Forest, the latter three occupying the Tutamoe Range. Outlying forests, which extend further to the south include the Houto Forest on the Maungaru Range, and inland to the Tangihua Range.

Whilst the upper portion of the elevated areas retains their vegetation cover, the lower slopes have been cleared for pasture or are planted in forestry. These modifications at the edges of the unit are generally within a context of native remnants which occupy gullies and the steeper slopes, thus providing a coherent structure that reflects the underlying topographical pattern.

## EVALUATION

Criteria	Rank	Comment
<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 western part of Northland in particular is characterised by the dominating backdrop of elevated landform with contiguous native forest. The presence of native tree species, most notably the old kauri and native fauna lend the unit a distinct endemic character. Tutamoe is also a distinctive feature that is visible and recognised from within a large catchment.

<b>Rarity</b> Natural features are unique or rare in the region or nationally, and few comparable examples exist.	5	Whilst a number of examples of this land type exist, the strength lies partly in the repeated occurrence within the region. They are characteristic of Northland and rare in a national sense.
<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.	4	The contiguousness of vegetation and vegetation patterns accentuates natural relief. Most notably Tutamoe has a simple, recognisable and visible form, which is visible from an extensive catchment.  The entire area demonstrates a simple landscape composition on a macro-scale. Vegetation patterns reflect the landform with minimal fragmentation except on the margins of the forested areas. Whilst this does detract from the coherence of these areas in some instances, the scale of the forest on the more elevated land mitigates against this.
<b>Diversity &amp; Complexity</b> The elements contributing to overall landscape character are diverse and complex (particularly in ecological terms) without creating disharmony.	5	The forests display a high level of ecological diversity and complexity, with a variety of vegetation types reflecting the topography, drainage patterns and slope aspect.
<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.	5	Views of the landscape are possible from an extensive visual catchment, but when viewed from more proximate locations the scale and power of the landform and its associated vegetation assumes a highly memorable quality, enclosing and dominating the landscape.
<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> </ul>	4	The majority of the landscape displays a high level of naturalness with minimal evident human activity. Past clearance for agriculture is evidenced by the diversity of the kanuka forest, but the contiguous character of the forest lends the ranges a high level of natural character when viewed from the southern quadrants.  Fragmentation of the vegetation on the margins of forested areas tends to diminish the apparent naturalness, but the unit clearly demonstrates a strength of natural processes and ecological patterns.  Vegetation types and patterns are clearly representative of topography, drainage patterns and slope aspect, and this suggests a high level of strength of natural processes.  The presence of, in many instances, primary growth vegetation with a multi layered structure demonstrates the operation of ecological processes.
<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.	4	Lower slopes, in places have been planted with plantation forestry, however the main body of the unit displays a high level of intactness with limited modification and robust natural systems.
<b>Experiential Values</b>		
<b>Expressiveness</b> The 'legibility' of the landscape. Natural features clearly demonstrate the natural processes that formed them.	5	The landscape displays a high level of legibility in terms of the hydrological processes that have shaped the valleys and ridges. The complexity and spatial arrangement of vegetation reflects the underlying topographical form of the ranges.

<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 presence and strength of the landscape is most immediate and apparent when experienced proximate locations. From here the vertical scale of the feature is apparent, and the landform, and vegetation cover provides a strong sense of enclosure.
<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>4</b>	Strongly influenced by light and weather conditions, although light conditions on the southern side tend to be more muted in scope. Ridges create extremely distinctive silhouettes during dawn and dusk. Seasonal influences of flowering trees and other plants.

<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>3</b>	Experienced from outside the unit, the forests are seen within a rural context with a limited level of remoteness. The scale of the unit is such that, from within, the inaccessibility of the terrain is such that a strong isolated and remote character can be experienced.
<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 unit forms part of the wider sequence of forested ranges that is widely valued by the community as providing a sense of place, and as a recreational resource.  Tutamoe. in particular displays a widely familiar and recognisable profile which is visible from an extensive catchment across Northland.
<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.		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)

<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



View of Tutamoe with Waima Range in foreground



View of Tutamoe